

An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta,  
Rannóg Oideachais Múinteoirí,  
Bloc 2, Urlár 1,  
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Baile Átha Cliath 1.

Department of Education and Science,  
Teacher Education Section,  
Block 2, Floor 1,  
Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1.



## Circular 0052/2008

### Online Certificate/Diploma in Education (Special/ Inclusive Education) 2008/2009

**TO: THE AUTHORITIES OF PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

#### 1. The Programme 2008

The Special Education Department of St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, and the Institute of Child Education and Psychology, Europe (ICEP), will jointly offer an online Certificate/Diploma in Education (Special/Inclusive Education), to teachers at primary and post-primary level who wish to develop their knowledge and skills in the area of Special/Inclusive Education.

The programme is part-funded by the Teacher Education Section of the Department of Education and Science (DES) under the National Development Plan 2007 to 2013.

A total of 150 places will be available in the year 2008-2009 to be allocated through two intakes, September 2008 (75 places), January 2009 (75 places). **Please note on the application that you are requested to indicate which intake you are applying for.** Places will be allocated equally between primary and post-primary teachers. These numbers are subject to change depending on demand.

#### 2. Aim and Content

The aim of the programme is to develop teachers' knowledge and skills in working with pupils with special and additional learning needs in mainstream classrooms.

On completion, a qualification of Certificate/Diploma in Education will be awarded by Dublin City University. Participants will be assessed on the basis of participation in the online teaching/learning environment, the completion of tasks and a written assignment (2,500-3,000 words) per module. Further details may be obtained from **(01) 8842025 E-mail: [admissions.office@spd.dcu.ie](mailto:admissions.office@spd.dcu.ie)**

### 3. Duration and organisation

The programme is delivered in a modular format using a blend of online and distance learning technologies and pedagogies. Methodologies will include, for example, LiveClassroom™, Forum Activities, Webcasting, Video and/or Audio Streaming and slide presentation. The duration is flexible to suit the needs of individual participants. The Certificate consists of four taught modules and must be completed within 3 years from first registration. The Diploma requires an additional module, unassessed, on research methods and a dissertation of 7,500/8,000 words, on an agreed topic, which must be completed within 4 years from first registration.

The structure of the course permits students to complete a maximum of three modules per year. The foundation module, which is mandatory for all students, focuses on inclusive educational policy and practice. Upon successful completion of this module participants will choose from a range of modules focusing on different aspects of special educational needs including: Mild General Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia, Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Challenging Behaviour.

**Please note that successful completion of this programme will not result in any entitlement to additional remuneration from the Department of Education and Science.**

### 4. Registration

Registration for this programme, of Continuing Professional Development (CPD), recognised by the Department of Education and Science (DES), will commence in September 2008.

Successful applicants will be required to attend at a chosen venue (to be notified) for registration and general introduction to the course content and procedures.

### 5. Eligibility

Applicants should be currently employed in the Irish Education System

#### (a) Primary:

**Please note that all teachers must be registered in accordance with Section 31 of the Teaching Council Act, 2001. Please see Department of Education & Science Circulars: [0085/2007](#), [0086/2007](#) & [0087/2007](#).**

Applicants should have satisfactorily completed their probationary period. *They must have recognised teaching qualifications in accordance with [Circular 140/2006](#)*

#### (b) Post primary

**Please note that all teachers must be registered in accordance with Section 31 of the Teaching Council Act, 2001. Please see Department of Education & Science Circulars: [0085/2007](#), [0086/2007](#) & [0087/2007](#).**

Applicants must be qualified teachers. While all applicants will be considered, priority will be given to class teachers.

## 6. Programme Requirements

In order to participate in the programme, teachers will need access to a computer, with headset and microphone, and internet access. Broadband access is strongly recommended. Familiarity with the internet and email is an expected requirement.

## 7. Applications and Selection

An Application Form accompanies this Circular for completion by teachers interested in and eligible to participate in the programme.

### ***Important***

Eligible teachers supported by their school authorities who wish to be considered for admission to the Programme should send their applications to **The Programme Director, Joint online Certificate/Diploma in Education, Admissions, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9** to be received not later than **5pm on 05<sup>th</sup> June 2008**. **Phone: (01) 884 2197, E-mail address: [courseinfo@spd.dcu.ie](mailto:courseinfo@spd.dcu.ie)** . **All applications must be accompanied by a non-returnable administration fee of €25 (payable by postal order or cheque). Applicants are advised that they should retain evidence of postage.**

## 8. Funding

Part funding for the programme is provided by the Teacher Education Section of the Department of Education and Science under the National Development Plan 2007 to 2013, as follows:

There will be a fee of €925 per module. The Department of Education and Science will pay 60% of the applicant's programme fees (i.e. €555 per module) up to a maximum of 5 modules per applicant. Individual applicants will be responsible for 40% of their fees (i.e. €370 per module up to a maximum of 5 modules and a project and for 100% of fees for any additional modules.)

The DES will not provide Travel and Subsistence for attendance at the registration and induction day or any face to face elements of the course. As participants will not be required to be absent from school, the provision of substitute cover or of extra personal vacation (EPV) days will not be necessary.

## 9. Master's Programme

This inservice programme Certificate in Education (*Special/Inclusive Education*) amounts to 20 credits on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and the Diploma in Education (*Special/Inclusive Education*) amounts to 30 ECTS at Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework. These credits may be taken towards a Master's in Education Degree in St Patrick's College, subject to certain conditions, including the attainment of a sufficiently high standard in the Diploma and the availability of places on the Master's in Education Programme.

Alan Wall  
Principal Officer  
April 2008

[Download Application form](#) (File Format Word 140 KB)