

DC905 - Professional Master of Education (PME)

Getting 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 4 hours per week (e.g. 6 x 40 min classes or 4 x 1 hr classes) of direct class teaching for the entire school year. Students are not required to teach above 4hrs per week, but if they choose to do so, it is a matter between the student and the school. School placement also involves a minimum of 4 hours per week participation in placement related activities for the entire school year. This includes activities such as staff meetings, subject planning meetings, open nights, extra-curricular activities, and various school events. **This means that student teachers are required to be present in the school for a minimum of 8 hrs per week.**

Students should not teach for the first few weeks of school, until semester 1 starts. Student teachers are required to carry out classroom observations during this period. Ideally, students would observe the classes they are due to take over.

Finding a school can be a challenge. The large number of applicants seeking placements each year makes the process highly competitive. Schools are not obliged to take students and often select applicants on the subject needs of the school. It is important to contact as many schools as possible. CVs may be sent to schools by email or hand delivered. It can be useful to arrange an appointment with school management to discuss your intention to complete a PME and your requirements.

A full list of schools is available from the [Department of Education & Skills](#)