



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University

Master of Arts in Learning & Teaching

**Enhancing
Learning,
Teaching &
Assessment**





Context



This level 9 programme is designed to support the development of inclusive learning, teaching and assessment of a diverse range of students within the early education, primary, post-primary, higher and further education sectors. The suite of offerings provide academics with the opportunity to develop their professional practice. The modules explore the link between effective teaching and reflective practice, providing learners with the scope to critically analyse their own teaching practice. A key feature of the programme is the relationship between effective teaching and reflective practice; the imperative to reflect on not only what we should teach, but how effectively, creatively and inclusively we teach a diverse range of learners. In every module critical reflective practice, based on evidence rather than anecdote, is required and used as the basis for self-evaluation and self-improvement. The collection and analysis of evidence will therefore be a prominent feature of the programme as a whole.

Key Features

The programme promotes a student-centred approach to inclusive learning and teaching. It supports professional development/reflective practice, providing an opportunity to develop skills through practically focused modules, while away from the busy work environment. The blended approach, with most classes now online during weekday evenings, also helps the busy professional to integrate study and work. The programme reflects the growing understanding of the central role of assessment and feedback, Universal Design for Learning, technology

enhanced learning and evidence-based research at each stage of learning. Students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively across disciplines with practitioners from all levels within education. In this way the programme provides a unique opportunity for educators to deepen their understanding of teaching and learning across different stages of education and informed by multiple levels of interlocking practice in the field of learning and teaching.

Key Features Include:

- Focus on developing professional practice in learning and teaching that embraces a diversity of learners and employs effective and creative pedagogies
- Development of digital teaching and learning expertise to make more effective use of technology in enhancing practice
- Choice in capstone module - a work-based learning project or a dissertation
- Leading national and international best practice speakers
- Blended learning delivery: - maximum 1 Saturday per semester face to face
- Work based learning and research in all modules
- All assessment are practice-based assignments
- Links theory to practice
- Keeping up to date with the challenges of 21st century teaching

Testimonials

Tina Parnell, Assistant Lecturer Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Donegal.

The MALT has been a truly enriching experience. Although challenging, this course has provided opportunities to explore teaching and learning in an enjoyable and safe environment. The resources and materials are par excellence. Due to the mix of educational disciplines within our cohort it has been possible to develop a broader, deeper understanding of the triumphs and trials we all experience. The time has flown by and it has been worth every minute.

Deirdre Walker, teacher of Irish and Geography at Loreto Community School in Milford.

The blended method of learning along with the array of various modules throughout the programme attracted me in applying for a place on the course. The foundations of the course were work-based and encouraged a high degree of reflection of your own practice as a teacher. The majority of modules were delivered by guest lecturers, who are experts

in their particular field. The material covered was contemporary and based on the most current practices and research. I attended various work-based, in-service courses whilst also completing MALT and I felt that I was already familiar with significant elements of the content as it had been delivered throughout the modules of the Masters.

This Masters has given me confidence to step out of my comfort zone in my own teaching practice and also in leading and participating in various initiatives within my place of work.

Anne McHugh, Chief Executive, Donegal ETB

“This new and innovative programme allows teachers to upskill without having to travel long distances. It fed directly into many of the key areas of interest for Donegal ETB in terms of our wish to continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning in our schools and centres. I recommend the programme wholeheartedly.”

Reflective Learning

An integral part of the programme is reflective learning within the student’s own institution. This approach provides the opportunity to evaluate and integrate theory, research and practice. The use of work-related projects gives students the scope to critically analyse their own teaching practice. This follows through to the capstone module of a work-based learning project or a

dissertation. Students will plan and carry out research projects in specific curricular areas of teaching.

Graduates of this programme will develop strong analytical skills through practitioner based research and critical reflective practice.

Costs

The programme fee is €5,800 payable in two instalments. The first instalment of €2,900 is due on commencement while the second instalment is due at the beginning of year 2.

Application Process – Experience Counts

Entry requirements are a Level 8 Degree, minimum of Second Class Honours, Grade 2 or equivalent. ATU Donegal operates a Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPL) scheme where applicants may be considered based on relevant work and other experience, for exemptions from programme modules

and advanced entry. Throughout this programme, critical reflection on teaching and learning practices is an integral part of an evidence based approach to teacher development; therefore, applicants must be currently involved in an active teaching role.

Programme Structure & Delivery

The programme will be delivered mostly online. All modules will be delivered online on Tuesday & Thursday evenings from 7-9pm, while selective modules (3 in total) will have one Saturday face to face included in the schedule.

The duration of the programme is two years part-time and involves learners undertaking the following modules:

Semester	Module	Online Delivery	Indicative Dates	Total hours	Recorded Lectures
Semester 1	Learning, Teaching & Assessment	6 weeks, 9 online classes: 7-9pm Tues & Thurs & 1 face to face Saturday	Jan-Mar 2023	36 teaching (6 x 2 x 2hr + 8) & 12 asynchronous reading hours	Yes
	Enhanced Learning through Technology	6 weeks, 12 online classes: 7-9pm Tues & Thurs	Apr-Jun 2023	36 teaching & 12 asynchronous reading hours	Yes
Semester 2	Inclusive Curriculum using Universal Design for Learning	6 weeks, 9 online classes: 7-9pm Tues & Thurs & 1 face to face Saturday	Sept-Nov 2023	36 teaching & 12 asynchronous reading hours	Yes
	Learning & Teaching with Creativity	6 weeks, 12 online classes: 7-9pm Tues & Thurs	Nov 2023-Jan 2024	36 teaching & 12 asynchronous reading hours	Yes
Semester 3	Elective	6 weeks, 12 online classes: 7-9pm Tues & Thurs	Jan-Mar 2024	36 teaching & 12 asynchronous reading hours	Yes
	Research Methods	6, weeks, 9 online classes: 7-9pm Tues & Thurs & 1 face to face Saturday	Apr-Jun 2024	36 teaching & 12 asynchronous reading hours	Yes
Semester 4	Dissertation/ WBL		Sept 2024-Jan 2025		

Electives

- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion in Education
- Educational Leadership & Management
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Restorative Practice: A Transformative Approach to Teaching & Learning
- Effective Supervision

ATU Donegal is inviting applications from Early-Childhood, Primary, Secondary, Third-Level and Further educators to take part in the Master of Arts in Learning and Teaching programme. For further information please contact Bronagh.Heverin@atu.ie, Head of Department of Law, Public Service and Education 074 91 86204, or Donald.Hannigan@atu.ie, Executive & Professional Education Co-Ordinator 074 91 86206. Places are limited, early submission is advisable.