

National Masters in Education

Introduction

In May 2020 a new Masters in Education qualification was approved for teaching from September 2021. It will be delivered by the 7 Welsh Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and is specific to the Welsh Education system.

The seven HEI partners committed to the programme are:

Swansea University	UWTSD
Aberystwyth University	Wrexham Glyndwr University
Bangor University	USW
Cardiff Met	

Early career stage practitioners

It has been agreed that Welsh Government will:

- Support individuals in their early career stage (years 3-6 of practice as a teacher) to be able to access the Masters from 2021 (covering the course costs).
- A maximum of 500 students across Wales will be able to access the Grant in 2022.
- Students will be able to access the Top up loan where suitable, post 2023.

The information below sets out the criteria that will be required for eligibility to access funding for the Programme. Academic eligibility will be defined by the HEIs including any credit equivalence values.

Funding Eligibility - early career stage practitioners

It is intended to move to funding future Masters students (new entrants from 2024 onwards) through amendments to the current postgraduate finance scheme administered by the Student Loans Company (SLC).

The eligibility criteria set out below are specific to students who commence the Masters programme in 2022 (as we will continue to fund students via this grant funded route throughout their study). Future cohorts may be subject to additional or changed criteria.

This is a part time programme only and is not available to international learners.

Please note non-Welsh Government funded students are able to access the Masters Programme but will not be able to access the specific funding identified here.

Eligibility Criteria - early career stage practitioners

All candidates must meet the academic entry requirements of the HEI. Up to a total 500 candidates across Wales will be identified by the universities who will be eligible for the full grant contributions. To be eligible you must be:

- Resident in Wales;
- Educated to degree level or equivalent;
- Holder of qualified teacher status (QTS) and registered with the EWC as a school teacher or a further education teacher (which must be maintained throughout the course of the programme);
- Employed by a maintained school in Wales as a teacher;
- Employed in the further education sector in Wales as a teacher;
- Employed on a minimum of 0.4 FTE contracts, this can include supply teachers who are on long term contracts either with a Local Authority, school or an agency;
- In year 3 to year 6 of practice from the completion of induction, at the start of the course;
- Accepted /Enrolled on this specific MA in Education offered by the 7 partnership HEIs which are:

Swansea University
Aberystwyth university
Bangor University
Cardiff Met

UWTSD
Wrexham Glyndwr University
USW

- Candidates should have, where possible, the support of their Head teacher/Principal;
- Where someone has already achieved a subject specific Masters they are still eligible to apply for the funding towards this programme;
- No other Masters in Education qualifications offered by the HEIs are eligible for this funding.

Specific conditions of funding - all years

All prospective candidates for support must acknowledge and agree to the following condition of funding:

- In accepting this grant offer teachers are required to continue to work in Wales, either within the maintained education system or further education sector for a minimum of 2 years after completing the programme.
- Candidates in receipt of this funding must not make an application for further post graduate finance support through the SLC

Process to access funding

The grant will be established between the Welsh Government and the participating HEIs. Individuals will not apply to the Welsh Government or Student Loans Company for support.