

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 seven Welsh Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and is specific to the education system in Wales.

The seven HEI partners committed to delivering the programme are:

Swansea University
Aberystwyth University
Bangor University
Cardiff Met

UWTSD
Wrexham Glyndwr University
USW

Early career stage practitioners

The following has been agreed:

- The 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. This funding will cover the course costs.
- A maximum of up to 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 eligibility criteria that have been agreed for students (up to 500) to access the Welsh Government funding for the programme. Academic eligibility will be defined by the HEIs including any credit equivalence values.

Agreed funding eligibility - early career stage practitioners

It is intended to move to funding future Masters in Education students (new entrants from 2023 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 in Education in 2022 (as students will continue to be funded 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.

Non Welsh Government funded students are able to access the Masters in Education but will not be able to access the specific funding identified here.

Agreed eligibility criteria - early career stage practitioners

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

Agreed specific conditions of funding - early career stage practitioners

All prospective candidates for support must acknowledge and agree to the following conditions 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 two years after completing the programme.
- Candidates in receipt of this funding must not make an application for further post graduate finance support through the Student Loans Company.

Agreed process to access funding - early career stage practitioners

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.

Proposed eligibility criteria for the Leadership Pathway funding for entry onto the National Masters in Education in 2022

All candidates must meet the academic entry requirements of the HEI.

Up to 50 candidates across Wales will be identified by the HEIs who will be eligible for the full grant contributions. These candidates **will not be in addition** to the 500 candidate places already agreed - they will form part of the 500 but this cohort will have specific eligibility criteria. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be educated to degree level or equivalent;
- Have qualified teacher status (QTS) and be registered with the EWC as a teacher in a school, an advisory teacher in a local authority or a teacher in a setting such as a pupil referral unit (QTS and EWC registration must be maintained throughout the course of the programme) **OR** be a college lecturer and be registered with the EWC (EWC registration must be maintained throughout the course);
- Be employed by a maintained school in Wales / college in Wales / local authority in Wales as a teacher / lecturer / advisory teacher **OR** be employed by a registered independent school or specialist college;
- Be employed on a minimum of 0.4 FTE contracts, this can include supply teachers/lecturers who are on long term contracts either with a Local Authority, school, college or an agency;
- Be accepted/enrolled on this specific Masters in Education offered by the seven partnership HEIs which are:

Swansea University
Aberystwyth University
Bangor University
Cardiff Met

UWTSD
Wrexham Glyndwr University
USW

- Follow the Leadership Pathway;
- Candidates should have, where possible, the required approvals and support from their employer (school, local authority, setting or college) to undertake the National Masters in Education;
- 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 - Leadership Pathway - all years

All prospective candidates for support must acknowledge and agree to the following conditions of funding.

In accepting this grant offer, practitioners are required to work as a teacher or a lecturer, within one of the following settings for a minimum of two years after completing the programme.

- A maintained school/PRU in Wales;
- A further education institution in the FE sector in Wales;
- A registered independent school;
- A specialist college.

Candidates in receipt of this funding must not make an application for further post graduate finance support through the Student Loans Company.

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 the Student Loans Company for support.