

National Masters in Education - Funding Criteria

Introduction

In May 2020 a new Masters in Education qualification was approved for teaching from September 2021. It is delivered by 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 University
Bangor University	USW
Cardiff Met	

The National Masters in Education Programmes are available to all practitioners however some students may be eligible for funding support.

To be eligible for funding you must:

1. Be an **early career stage practitioner** i.e., an individual in years 3-6 of practice as a teacher at the start of the programme, or
 - ITE partner school staff.
 - Teaching Assistants who meet the academic entry requirements for the programme.
 - School Improvement Partners/regional consortia staff/Estyn staff/LA staff/Middle tier.
 - ALNCO (including FE).
 - Applicants on the fringe of years 3-6 criteria but at the discretion of the university and in exceptional circumstances.

Please note that the requirement to be in years 3-6 of practice does not apply to either the ALN or Leadership Pathway.

2. All candidates must **meet the academic entry requirements** of the HEI. There are limited Welsh Government funded places available from September 2023.
3. Work in a **Welsh maintained school** (or in the case of ALN Pathway this could include a Welsh FE institution).
4. **Educated to degree level or equivalent.**
5. **Registered with the EWC** (which must be maintained throughout the course of the programme).

6. **Employed on a minimum of 0.4 FTE contract**, this can include supply teachers who are on long term contracts either with a Local Authority, school or an agency.
7. **Accepted/Enrolled on this specific MA in Education** offered by the 7 partnership HEIs which are:

Swansea University	UWTSD
Aberystwyth university	Wrexham University
Bangor University	USW
Cardiff Met	
8. Candidates should have, where possible, **the support of their Head teacher** (or equivalent such as Principal, MD, CEO or Head of Service).
9. Where someone has already achieved a subject specific Masters, they may still be eligible to apply for the funding towards this programme
10. No other Masters in Education qualifications offered by the HEIs are eligible for this funding.

Academic eligibility will be defined by the HEIs including any credit equivalence values. All candidates must meet the academic entry requirements of the HEI.

This is a part time programme only.

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.

Specific conditions of funding - all years

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 2 years after completing the programme.
- Candidates in receipt of this funding are unable to make an application for further post graduate finance support through the SLC, other than DSA support where applicable.

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.