

O.C.G. OIRIÚNÚ le hAGHAIDH CÁILÍOCHTA SA GHAEILGE ADAPTATION PERIOD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(This list of frequently asked questions is intended as a guide for prospective candidates. Having consulted the questions and answers, prospective applicants who still have a query should contact the Irish Language Requirement Office.)

A. ACHIEVING CONDITIONAL RECOGNITION:

- 1. Where can I obtain information on having my qualifications assessed for the purpose of registration as a Primary Teacher?**
Information is available on the Teaching Council website www.teachingcouncil.ie and from the Teaching Council, Block A, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Tel: 01 6517900 . Fax: 01 6517901. Email: info@teachingcouncil.ie
- 2. If you have applied for registration with the Teaching Council, can you apply for the OCG or should you wait until your registration is confirmed by the Teaching Council?**
An applicant may apply for the Irish Language Requirement (Aptitude Test or Adaptation Period) having submitted an application for registration with the Teaching Council. If registered with an Irish Language Requirement condition, candidates must forward a copy of their Confirmation of Registration, to the Irish Language Requirement Office with their application or as soon as it becomes available to them. Candidates must be registered with the Teaching Council when they undertake school based elements and when they undertake the examination(s)/assessment(s).

B. THE IRISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT:

- 3. Where can I obtain information on addressing the Irish Language Requirement?**
Information and application forms are available on the Irish Language Requirement website www.ilrweb.ie
Information is also available from the Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 8535134. Email: scginfo@mie.ie & ocginfo@mie.ie
- 4. Is there a limit to how long I can undertake the OCG (Adaptation Period) for?**
The maximum period allowed under EU regulations for an Adaptation Period is three years from date of Registration.

5. **The revised arrangements provide for a choice of Aptitude Test (SCG) or Adaptation Period (OCG) for making good a curriculum shortfall in Irish. Is one method viewed as better than the other?**
No, both methods are equally valid, are of a similar standard and will on successful completion satisfy the Irish Language Requirement.

6. **Who makes the decision whether to opt for an Aptitude Test or an Adaptation Period?**
The decision is solely that of the applicant. Applicants are advised to consult the information sources outlined above before notifying the Teaching Council of their decision.

7. **Which application form should I complete?**
You should complete the appropriate form based on your choice of Aptitude Test (S.C.G.) or Adaptation Period (O.C.G.). It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that he/she completes the appropriate application form.

8. **If I provide an incomplete application form for either the Aptitude Test (S.C.G.) or the Adaptation Period (O.C.G.) to the Irish Language Requirement Office will my application be refused?**
Candidates are asked to complete their application forms carefully and as completely as possible. It is acknowledged that some candidates may not have complete information available to them or may be awaiting further details at the time of application (e.g. school, class or exemption details – school details must be provided by 14 November.). In circumstances where information is incorrect or omitted (e.g. photos not attached, incorrect payment details or a partial application submitted) the Irish Language Requirement Office will return the application form and will indicate the outstanding details/information required. It will be the candidate's responsibility to resubmit the application within the closing date period.

9. **When I submit my application to the Irish Language Requirement Office (Coláiste Mhuire Marino) will I receive acknowledgement?**
Yes, the Irish Language Requirement Office will acknowledge receipt of your application and will provide any additional information relevant to your application.

C. OIRIÚNÚ le hAGHAIDH CÁILÍOCHTA SA GHAELIGE (O.C.G. – ADAPTATION PERIOD):

10. **Where can I obtain further information regarding Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (O.C.G. – Adaptation Period)?**
Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (O.C.G.) is one of two options for undertaking the Irish Language Requirement (the other option is an Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta S.C.G.). Information and application forms are available on the Irish Language Requirement website www.ilrweb.ie
Information is also available from the Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 8535134. Email: scginfo@mie.ie & ocginfo@mie.ie
11. **When can I apply to undertake the O.C.G (Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Adaptation Period)?**
Candidates opting to undertake the O.C.G. must apply for registration to the Teaching Council. If you are required to address a condition in the Irish Language, (i.e. Irish Language Requirement) you should apply to The Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 8535134.. Email: ocginfo@mie.ie if you intend to undertake the O.C.G. Application forms available for download from www.ilrweb.ie Closing date is indicated on the application form.
12. **Where can I obtain assessment information for the OCG (Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Adaptation Period)?**
The format and layout of the O.C.G. (Adaptation Period) may be downloaded from the Irish Language Requirement website www.irlweb.ie
A full listing of assessment information is contained in the support materials for the O.C.G. (Adaptation Period) *Sruth na Maoile*. The support materials are available directly from the The Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Tel: 01 8535134. Email: ocginfo@mie.ie A layout of the format of the O.C.G., the Assessment Timetable and the O.C.G. Calendar can be accessed on www.ilrweb.ie

13. If I opt to undertake an Adaptation Period to achieve the Irish Language Requirement what are the specific requirements?

If you opt to undertake an Adaptation Period then;

- You must be working in a mainstream class teacher capacity
- You must have registered (or have applied for registration) with the Teaching Council.
- You must advise the school(s) where you are employed of the requirements of the Adaptation Period.
- You must ensure that the school(s) is/are able to provide the necessary support for meeting the requirements of the Adaptation Period.
- It will be expected that you will be in continuous employment for the duration of the Adaptation Period.
- You must enrol for the Adaptation Period with the Irish Language Requirement Office.
- If the school principal is satisfied that you are competent to teach Irish to the class(es) then you must undertake the teaching of Irish to a mainstream class(es) on an ongoing and regular basis consistent with the requirements of the revised Primary Curriculum. You must satisfy a Specific Adaptation Period Practice Requirement of 120 school days of the Teaching of Irish during the Adaptation Period.
- If the school principal is of the opinion that you do not have sufficient proficiency in speaking Irish or the necessary competence in teaching Irish, then the principal will assign responsibility for the teaching of Irish to your class to another teacher while you undertake the necessary professional preparation.
- You must undertake and achieve a pass in the four assessment modules of the Adaptation Period (Written Assessment, An Aural Assessment and an Oral Assessment, Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom) and fulfill a three week attendance at a recognised Gaeltacht course, within the period allowed for the Adaptation Period.
- **A class is entitled to competent Irish language tuition.**

14. Is it necessary to be teaching in a mainstream classroom in order to undertake the Adaptation Period?

Yes.

15. I have already begun my Adaptation Period but I am moving to a new school, how will this affect my Adaptation Period?

- Applicants undertaking an Adaptation Period would be expected to be in continuous employment for the duration of the Adaptation Period. You may continue with your adaptation period subject to the specific requirements outlined above. You must be working in a mainstream class teacher capacity. The candidate must secure the permission of the school principal or Board of Management and must ensure that the school(s) is/are able to provide the necessary support for meeting the requirements of the Adaptation Period. You must inform the Irish Language Requirement office by completing a change of school form available on the website www.ilrweb.ie **A class is entitled to competent Irish language tuition.**

16. How will the Irish Language Requirement Office verify that I have undergone the practice in the teaching of Irish?

There are a number aspects to this verification.

- (a) Upon registration the candidate must secure the permission of the school principal/Board of Management. The signature of the principal will be required to verify that the requirements of the adaptation period will be complied with and that the school is able to provide the necessary support for meeting the requirements of the adaptation period.
- (b) The supervised school visits will ascertain the candidate's preparation and progress in the teaching of Irish and the details of the practice undertaken to date.
- (c) During the school visits the supervisor will verify the adaptation arrangements and the Practice details that have been put in place with the principal teacher.
- (d) The candidate will maintain Specific Adaptation Period Practice Statements for each school in which practice has been undertaken.

17. Can I undertake all of the O.C.G. in one year?

The O.C.G. consists of 4 modules (A Written Assessment, An Aural Assessment, an Oral Assessment and Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom, Candidates must also attend a recognised Gaeltacht Course for a period of 3 weeks which can be taken together or as a combination of weeks). Candidates may when completing their registration form decide to undertake all of the modules or a combination of modules. The four modules need not be taken in one year and undertaking the assessment over a number of years is an option. The decision is the candidate's own decision.

| Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge | | |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Written Assessment | (100 marks) | |
| Aural Assessment | (100 marks) | |
| Oral Examination | (100 marks) | |
| Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom | Visit 1 (50 marks) | Visit 2 (50 marks) |
| Gaeltacht | 3 week attendance at a recognised Gaeltacht Course. | |

18. Is it possible for me to complete the OCG - Adaptation Period in less than three years?

It is possible to complete the Adaptation period within the three year period if the candidate has achieved a pass in the four modules of the Adaptation Period (Written Assessment, An Aural Assessment , Oral Assessment and Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the classroom) and has fulfilled the three week attendance at a recognised Gaeltacht course.

19. What is the pass mark to be achieved?

Candidates must achieve a mark of 40% or above to obtain a pass in each module. Each individual module must be passed at this mark.

20. What standard is applied in the Assessments?

The candidate will be required to demonstrate competence at a level commensurate with graduates of the Bachelor of Education or Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) awarded within the State.

21. **What is the pass rate in the assessment?**
Statistics from previous years are available and presented on the website (www.ilrweb.ie).
22. **What format will the assessments take?**
The Format and layout of the assessments and sample assessment papers can be downloaded at www.ilrweb.ie
23. **How and when will the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom be organised?**
Candidates will provide their school details on the application form for the OCG, Adaptation Period to the Irish Language Requirement Office. Candidates will receive two visits from the same supervisor during the period Jan – March. Candidates must achieve an average mark between the two visits of 40% or above in order to achieve a pass in the module. Candidates who achieve 40% or above as an average between both visits will be deemed to have passed that module and will not be required to undertake the module again. Results for the school visits will issue with the Easter Examination Results. Candidates who do not achieve 40% as an average between both visits will be required to repeat the module and a repeat school visit (one visit) will take place during the month of June. Candidates who are unsuccessful in the repeat school visit will be required to retake that module in a subsequent year within the three years allowed for the completion of the Adaptation Period.
- Full details of the requirements of the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom will be available in the support materials *Sruth na Maoile* which are available directly from the Irish Language Requirement Office (01 8535134, ocginfo@mie.ie).
24. **When and where are the Assessments held?**
The Assessments are held during Easter on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after the Easter Monday bank holiday. The Assessments are held at the Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Ave., Dublin 9. The Assessment timetable can be accessed on www.ilrweb.ie
25. **When and where are the repeat Assessments held?**
The repeat Assessments are held usually during the third week of August prior to schools reopening. The repeat Assessments are held at the Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Ave., Dublin 9.. To be eligible to repeat a module in the August repeat Assessment candidates must have undertaken the module but not passed it in the Easter Assessment.
26. **Do I have to repeat the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the classroom if I do not obtain an overall pass in that module?**
Yes, candidates will be required to repeat the Assessment during the month of June (one visit) for the repeat Assessment or in a subsequent year (two visits).

27. **Is there an appeal procedure?**

Yes, both the Easter and August Assessments are subject to appeal procedures. Candidates may also if they wish decide to view their Assessment script prior to deciding to undertake an appeal or may proceed directly to an appeal if they wish.

28. **What supports are available for candidates undertaking an Adaptation Period?**

It will be the responsibility of the candidate to engage in intensive personal study, individual tuition, attendance at courses where necessary, including a compulsory period of three weeks in the Gaeltacht and any other measures necessary to achieve the required competence to teach Irish in a primary school. To assist candidates in this regard support materials will be available on the website www.ilrweb.ie which candidates may download. The support materials are *Beatha Teanga* a beginner course in Irish and *Í a Labhairt* an intermediate level course in Irish. Accompanying audio can also be downloaded from the website or in the alternative the audio may be purchased in CD format from the Irish Language Requirement Office 01 8535143/ 8535134. Comprehensive support materials ‘*Sruth na Maoile*’ for candidates undertaking an Adaptation Period are provided in digital form to candidates and are available in hard copy for purchase directly from the Irish Language Requirement Office, 01 8535134.

29. **Are learning materials available to help me to prepare for the O.C.G and where can I get them?**

Yes, the following support materials are available.

| O.C.G. Support Materials. | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|---|
| There are no prescribed learning materials for the OCG. The support materials listed here are made available to assist candidates in developing competence in Irish and the teaching of Irish. Their use is at the discretion of the candidate. | | | |
| Course Material | Level | Format | Availability |
| Beatha Teanga | Beginner Level | Learning material for a Beginner Irish Course and independent learning. Folder and CD. | Folder available for download from www.ilrweb.ie and from the Irish Language Requirement Office (01 8535134). CD available from the Office |
| Í a Labhairt | Intermediate Level | Learning material for an Intermediate level course and independent learning. Book and CD. | Folder available for download from www.ilrweb.ie and from the Irish Language Requirement Office (01 8535134). CD available from the Office |
| Sruth na Maoile | Advanced Level | Learning material to assist candidates in preparing for all aspects of the Assessment(s). Book & 3 CD's | Support materials provided to candidates in digital format and are available in hard copy for purchase from the Irish Language Requirement Office (01 8535134) in Dec. |

30. **Where do I apply for an exemption from parts of the O.C.G.?**

Applicants who have Irish as a major subject in their degree may apply for exemption from parts of the O.C.G. on the O.C.G. application form. Exemptions are assessed by Coláiste Mhuire, Marino, Applicants seeking exemption should contact; The Irish Language Requirements Office, Coláiste Mhuire Marino, Tel: 01 8535134. Exemption policy is outlined in the OCG Guide.

31. **If I have an exemption, what parts of the O.C.G. must I complete?**
Candidates who have Irish as a major subject in their Primary degree are entitled to an exemption from parts of the O.C.G. A candidate with an exemption will have to undertake the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the classroom module.
32. **Where can I obtain further information on the Gaeltacht Courses?**
Information regarding recognised Gaeltacht courses can be obtained from the individual Gaeltacht course providers. The website www.ilrweb.ie provides a listing of Department of Education and Skills recognised Gaeltacht course providers
33. **What is the duration of the Gaeltacht course requirement?**
The candidate is required to be resident in the Gaeltacht for three weeks (i.e. 21 days) and to attend an OCG Gaeltacht course approved by the Department of Education and Science.
34. **Is it necessary to undertake the 3 weeks of Gaeltacht course requirement together?**
No. The weeks can be taken together or as a combination of weeks.
35. **When should I undertake the Gaeltacht courses?**
For the O.C.G., candidates are recommended to complete the Gaeltacht course requirement before undertaking the Oral Assessment. The purpose of attendance at the Gaeltacht course is to improve the Irish Language competence of the candidate.
36. **What is the fee for undertaking the O.C.G.?**
The fee for undertaking the O.C.G. is advised on the Fee Payment Schedule (www.ilrweb.ie).
37. **What is the fee for undertaking a recognised Gaeltacht course?**
The fee for undertaking a recognised Gaeltacht course is payable to and will be advised by each individual Gaeltacht course provider. A list of recognised OCG Gaeltacht courses can be accessed at www.ilrweb.ie.
38. **I intend to qualify as a Primary Teacher outside of the state (26 counties). Can I undertake the O.C.G. before or during my studies outside of the state?**
No. In order to undertake the O.C.G. an applicant must have obtained (or must have applied for) Registration with the Teaching Council.
39. **Is it necessary to obtain an honour in Irish in the Leaving Certificate Examination in order to be eligible to undertake the O.C.G.**
No.