



# Graduate Diploma in Inclusive and Special Education

(One Year Full-Time course for Teachers)

## Introduction

This course is designed to develop the skills of special education teachers who work in primary, post-primary and special school or specialist unit settings, in all aspects of theory and practice related to teaching pupils with additional education needs.

The ethos of the course is that of maximising inclusion of pupils while providing students with the skills and knowledge to support the most challenged and most challenging pupils within the education system within the most appropriate setting for those pupils. It develops students' knowledge and skills in identification and assessment of pupils with additional educational needs and in planning,

monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions for such pupils.

This course covers a comprehensive range of topics pertinent to teaching and supporting pupils with additional educational needs. It examines a range of types of disabilities and additional educational needs, in relation to aetiology, characteristics and appropriate inclusive interventions. It critically examines various approaches to the organisation of provision for students with disabilities/ additional educational needs, including an exploration of the role, if any, of special schools within an inclusive education system.

## Programme Highlight

Due to the small number of students on the programme, participants are provided with very high levels of support.

Many sessions are collaborative in nature, allowing for sharing of ideas and expertise; each unit of learning is delivered by expert practitioners and top-class academics drawn from UCD and beyond

Assessment methods related to each of the five modules allow for considerable variety and are expertly matched to lecture content and to relevant classroom practice.

## Programme Structure & Content

### Programme Structure:

This professional full-time course is delivered over an academic year, with two four-week periods of full time attendance at college, supplemented by attendance on five Saturdays spread throughout the year. The vast majority of students on the course are funded by the Department of Education and full substitution cover is funded by the Department of Education while those students attend college. When not attending college, students on the course are otherwise teaching in their own schools, where they are supported by site visits from UCD tutors. The format of delivery combines lectures, tutorials, workshops and visits to other schools considered to be centres of excellence.

### Modules:

Sample modules include:

- Inclusive Education
- Exploring Diversity
- Inclusive Therapies/Approaches
- Inclusive Pedagogy
- Professional Practice & Portfolio Development

*Modules may change, from time to time, depending on availability.*

## Why study at UCD?



### Graduate Education

12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs



### Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking



### Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland



### Global Community

8,500 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries



### Global Profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Welcoming Campus

Modern parkland campus with 24 hr security. Wide range of facilities, clubs, societies and supports



## Career Opportunities

Completion of this course will significantly enhance the knowledge and skills of Special Education Teachers and will render them considerably more competent and confident in fulfilment of their roles. It will enable SET teachers to apply for national and regional roles within the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), including the roles of Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOs) and visiting teachers providing consultative services to schools.

## Applicant Profile

- Applicants must be working in a Special Education teacher role and have Teaching Council recognition.
- Applications for self-financed places for September every year will open after the Department of Education funded places have been allocated, usually in March and they typically close later in the summer when all self-financed places have been allocated.

## About the School

The School of Education is a leader in its field, internationally recognized for its research and over 100 years of service to the wider education community in Ireland. We cater for educational professionals across all sectors of the education system – from early years through to higher education and welcome queries from international students

## Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees).

## Related Masters

Students who obtain a 2.1 honours grade in the Graduate Diploma in Inclusive and Special Education have the option of transferring directly into Year 2 of the MEd Inclusive Education and obtaining this Masters qualification by completing one module in Research Methods and a thesis. This pathway is only recommended for graduates of the Grad Dip ISE W424 who have completed the course in the last five years.

## Academic Profile



**Dr. William Kinsella**  
Associate Professor,  
Head of School of Education

William is an Educational Psychologist who has been Course Director of the professional training programme in Educational Psychology at School of Education, UCD for over 15 years. He established a PhD in Educational Psychology programme. Subsequently, he set up the Professional Doctoral programme in Educational Psychology. He is also involved in Teacher Education and in the training of Special Education Teachers in the School of Education. William's areas of research include inclusive education, educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs, with particular interest in Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), and early childhood numeracy skills.

### CONTACT US

#### EU Students

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### APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at

[www.ucd.ie/apply](http://www.ucd.ie/apply)