



St. Angela's College, Sligo
Coláiste San Aingeal, Sligeach
A College of NUI Galway

Education and the Law - Level 9 NFQ

(With exit awards at MA/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate levels)

Next Intake: September 2018

The Education Department at St. Angela's College, Sligo has developed a number of online blended-learning options at postgraduate level in the area of Education and the Law in response to calls from professionals working in educational and related settings for professional development opportunities in this subject area.

There are currently four modules to choose from:

- Legal issues in the Educational Setting
- Minors/Vulnerable Adults and the Law
- Data Protection, Social Media and Intellectual Property in the Educational Setting
- Employment and Equality in the Educational Setting

The aim of the modules is to provide substantial theoretical and practical continuing professional development for those interested in and/or working in educational and related settings (further details on the individual modules are provided at the end of this document).

Programme Description

Litigation is now a common feature of life in educational environments and the challenges it presents demand access to expertise which offers perspectives on how these challenges might be addressed. This MA/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate programme brings together education, legislation, theory and practice. It enables participants to engage with, discuss and reflect on national and European legislation and case law relating to education in a critical and informed manner. It will inform the development of best practice in educational settings at a local level thereby seeking to ensure compliance with relevant legislative provisions.

Module Delivery

These standalone online blended learning modules involve e-tivities, discussion boards and face-to-face workshops (one Friday evening/Saturday per module) and have a credit weighting of 15 ECTS. Two modules are offered per academic year. The modules are delivered over one semester (8-12 weeks).

Assessment and delivery:

Each module will include student contact time, directed study, independent and e-learning study giving a total participant effort of at least 300 hours for each module. Students will also be expected to participate in online discussions of course content. Dates are provided for on-campus workshops and lectures and the remainder of the modules are delivered online.

Modules will normally be assessed by continuous assessment/written coursework (up to a maximum of 5,000 words/module) based on assignment, e-tivities and discussion boards, where appropriate.

On-campus delivery will take place on Friday evenings: 6:30-9:30pm and Saturdays: 9:30am-5:00pm unless otherwise indicated by module leader.

Programme Structure

Students successfully completing 45 ECTS of modules (**3 core modules**) in Stage 1 of the programme continue to Stage 2 where they undertake the Advanced Research Module (**core**) and the Dissertation Module (**core**) and exit with a Master of Arts (Education and the Law). Alternatively, students may exit with a Postgraduate Certificate on successfully completing 30 ECTS (2 modules) or with a Postgraduate Diploma on successfully completing 60 ECTS (4 modules). Students may also study standalone modules and exit with 15 ECTS (NFQ, Level 9) upon successful completion of a module.

Two Stage 1 modules may be offered annually while Stage 2 will be offered annually. Participants may commence the programme at any stage.

Course Costs:

Cost per module: €900

Postgraduate Certificate: €1,800

Postgraduate Diploma: €3,600

MA (Total for all modules – Stages 1 and 2): €7,000

Entry Requirements

Level 8 Undergraduate Degree (H2.2) or equivalent. For students without the relevant academic qualification but with relevant previous experience, recognition for prior learning can be awarded. Transcripts of results (or proof of membership of professional body such as Teaching Council or Law Society membership) and proof of ID are required on application.

Course Participants

This programme will be of benefit to those working in, or in partnership with, educational institutions/settings. Participants may include personnel such as (although this list is not exhaustive)

- Management and Staff in Educational Settings;
- Members of Boards of Management/Governance;
- Teacher Educators;
- Student Teachers on Initial Teacher Education programmes;
- Legal representatives of schools and others in the legal profession;
- CEOs of ETBs;
- Members of Diocesan Bodies with links to Education/Educational institutions;
- DES personnel;
- NEWB staff;
- Special Needs Assistants and Administrative Staff in educational settings;
- Postgraduate students on Education and related programmes.

PROVISIONAL Programme Dates for 2018-2020 (subject to change)

Module Title	Closing date for applications	Module Commencement Date	Module Workshop Date(s) - compulsory attendance
Data Protection, Social Media and Intellectual Property in the Educational Setting	16/05/2018	01/10/2018	05/10/2018 (4:00pm for new students, 6:00-9:00pm for returning students) 06/10/2018 (9:30am-4:00pm)
Employment and Equality in the Educational Setting	07/12/2018	07/01/2019	11/01/2019 (4:00pm for new students, 6:00-9:00pm for returning students) 12/01/2019 (9:30am-4:00pm)
Legal issues in the Educational Setting	May 2019	September 2019	Friday (4:00pm for new students, 6:00-9:00pm for returning students) Saturday (9:30am-4:00pm)
Minors/Vulnerable Adults and the Law	December 2019	January 2020	Friday (4:00pm for new students, 6:00-9:00pm for returning students) Saturday (9:30am-4:00pm)

Modules Stage 2 - both modules are core modules

- Advanced Research Module (Core 15 ECTS)
- Dissertation Module (Core 30 ECTS)

Students commence Stage 2 in September 2018.

Contact details:

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Module Details:

Module 1: Legal issues in the educational setting

This module will address the legal issues that can face educators on a day to day basis - be it tort (including negligence, health and safety, occupier's liability, trespass, defamation and privacy), constitutional law (including the rights of the child and the right to education) and educational-related issues such as admissions, suspensions, expulsions and disclosures. This module aims to highlight legal issues confronting educators and to assist them to debate on legislation, theory and practice and to reflect on it in a critical and informed manner.

Module 2: Minors/Vulnerable Adults and the Law

The legal duties placed on educators and schools, with regard to minors/vulnerable adults under their care, are onerous. This module aims to provide an overview of the rights minors enjoy and the responsibilities of those in educational settings towards them. The module will examine areas such as the rights of the family, including the non-conventional family; child protection and welfare; educational rights; wardship for vulnerable adults and the asylum process.

Module 3: Data Protection, Social Media & IP in Educational Settings

There is a duty on education personnel to appreciate the legal pros and cons that come with the digital age and to ensure that the educational setting and the participants therein are duly compliant. Areas covered will include the main principles applicable to data in Ireland, emerging issues in social media and intellectual property matters pertaining to educational settings, including policies and procedures to have in place.

Module 4: Employment & Equality issues

This module aims to equip participants with the fundamentals of employment law and the rights and remedies available regarding terms of employment, dismissal and bullying. The module will also focus on equality in terms of age, sex, race, religion and disability in the context of human rights. Issues such as gender-proofing and anti-discriminatory practices will also be addressed.

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