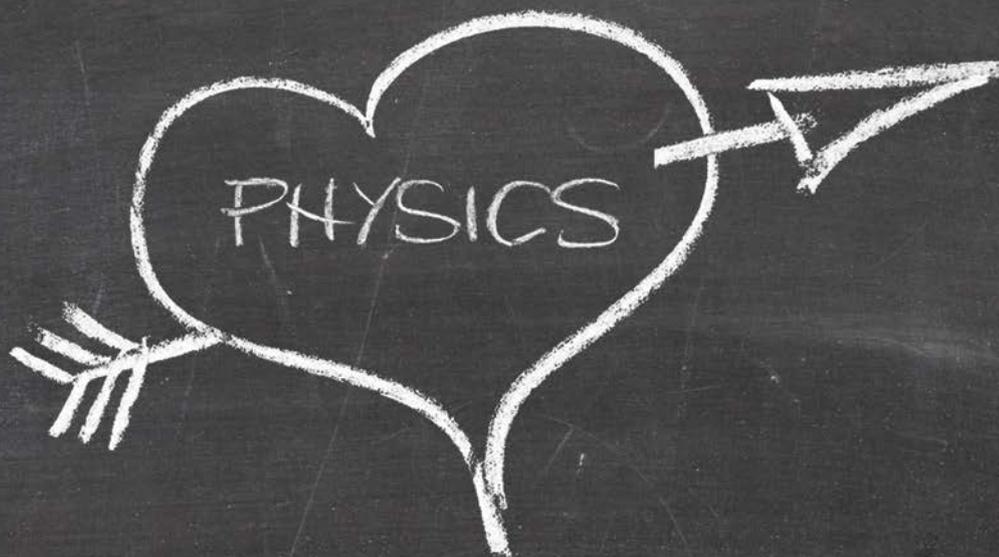


LOVE  
PHYSICS?



Pass on the passion. *Teach.*

# Six reasons to choose teaching as a profession

## 1. Making a real difference

You will be able to use your physics knowledge in an inspiring and thought-provoking way to help shape the next generation of physicists. Teachers are six times more likely to say that they make a difference in people's lives than other STEM professionals (aps.org, January 2017).

## 2. Room to grow

You will develop personally and professionally in a dynamic environment. This could be your opportunity to progress into a leadership role or take on additional responsibilities such as student mentoring or public engagement in science.

## 3. Travel opportunities

As a qualified teacher, you have the flexibility to choose where you live and work in Ireland, or abroad.

## 4. Very high demand for physics teachers

You will help to reduce the shortage of physics teachers in Ireland.

## 5. Job security

You will receive salary increments and retirement benefits.

## 6. Flexible working

There are job share and career break options readily available, so that you can match your career with your lifestyle.



# Starting salaries

Starting salaries for second-level teachers are higher than you might think. You can expect to start as a newly qualified full-time teacher in Ireland on a minimum of €35,958 a year ([education.ie](http://education.ie)).

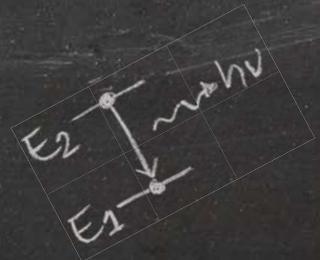
Teaching salaries match what you would receive in many other professions, and in some cases are even higher.

## Step 1. Choose your pathway to becoming a physics teacher

Whether you are just finishing school or looking for a new career – there is a teacher education programme suitable for you.

Your pathway to becoming a qualified teacher will include completing the equivalent of one year of a degree programme in physics along with education modules and school placements (typically a student teacher will spend in the region of 20 weeks in schools during their programme).

Successful completion of your programme will enable you to be qualified for registration with the Teaching Council. Details of the requirements to teach physics are set by the Teaching Council of Ireland. For more information visit [teachingcouncil.ie](http://teachingcouncil.ie).



## Undergraduate pathway

- Start an initial teacher education degree programme. A number of Irish universities offer you the opportunity to combine a science degree with initial teacher education – this means that upon graduation, you are qualified to teach in an Irish secondary school. An undergraduate initial teacher education programme takes four to five years, full time, to complete.
- Start a science/physics degree and upon completion enrol in a postgraduate teacher education programme.

## Postgraduate pathway

If you already have completed a physics degree, then you can apply for a place on a Professional Master of Education (PME). This postgraduate programme takes two years, full time, to complete.

## Step 2. Apply

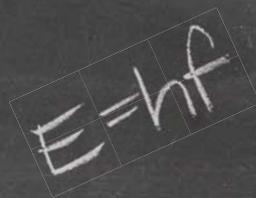
Applications for the undergraduate science education and physics courses are via the Central Applications Office, [cao.ie](http://cao.ie). The application deadline is usually February for entry the following September.

Applications for the PME teacher education programmes in Ireland are made via the Postgraduate Applications Centre, [pac.ie](http://pac.ie) or directly to the higher-education institution. The application deadline is usually December for entry in the following September, but some courses accept applications up to April.



For more information about the courses available, visit the institutions websites:

- Dublin City University  
**dcu.ie**
- Hibernia College Dublin  
**hiberniacollege.com**
- Maynooth University  
**maynoothuniversity.ie**
- National University of Ireland, Galway  
**nuigalway.ie**
- Trinity College Dublin  
**tcd.ie**
- University College Cork  
**ucc.ie**
- University College Dublin  
**ucd.ie**
- University of Limerick  
**ul.ie**



## Step 3. Fees and Funding

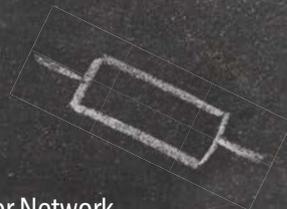
Typical undergraduate pathway fees are up to €3,000 per year. Typical PME fees are approximately €11,000 over two years.

The Higher Education Authority has provided information on student funding opportunities. For more information visit [hea.ie/funding-governance-performance/funding/student-finance/other-finance-bursaries-scholarships/](http://hea.ie/funding-governance-performance/funding/student-finance/other-finance-bursaries-scholarships/).

## Support for physics teachers

The IOP offers support to all physics teachers in Ireland via experienced Physics Teacher Network Coordinators who organise workshops, conferences and many other activities for teachers of physics.

You can also sign up to our early career teacher programme to receive information about resources, e-newsletters and events tailored especially for your training year and your first years in the classroom. To find out more, visit [iop.org/education/ltp](http://iop.org/education/ltp).



## Contact us

Still have unanswered questions about physics teacher training? Get in touch.

Institute of Physics in Ireland

Email: [ireland@iop.org](mailto:ireland@iop.org)

Web: [iopireland.org](http://iopireland.org)

Twitter: [@IOP\\_Ireland](https://twitter.com/IOP_Ireland)

Tel: +35386 2600903

Registered UK charity number: 293851

Charity registered in Scotland: SC040092

This information is correct at the time of print and applies to Ireland. For teaching advice for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales refer to the Department for Education, General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland, General Teaching Council for Scotland or the General Teaching Council for Wales.

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