



NCCA

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
Curaclaim agus Measúnachta
National Council for
Curriculum and Assessment

Open Competition for the appointment of an Education Officer for Modern foreign languages (in primary and post-primary education)

Information Booklet

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Education Officers in the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

1. The Appointment

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) is the statutory body which advises the Minister for Education on curriculum and assessment for early childhood education and for primary and post-primary schools. Further details about the NCCA and its work are available at www.ncca.ie.

The Council wishes to appoint an Education Officer to support its work in the area of modern foreign languages across the curriculum for primary, special and post-primary schools. The person appointed will be expected to be familiar with the key relevant issues in both sectors.

The post is for a full-time position contracted/seconded up to 31st August 2027.

Education Officers assist the executive in carrying out the brief of Council as defined in the Education Act, 1998, in relation to specific aspects of its work. Education Officers report to the Chief Executive or his/her nominee. In day-to-day operations, they report to a Deputy Chief Executive or Director, Curriculum and Assessment.

In addition to working with Education Officers on other curriculum and assessment projects, the person will also work with the corporate services team and with researchers, consultants and experts as needed. They will also respond to queries and requests from across the education sector, and from the public and the media as they arise on social media and through more traditional channels. Most Education Officers also engage with national and international networks relevant to their area(s) of work.

The working week (37 hours net of rest and breaks) of an Education Officer can include meetings of development groups or boards, meetings with colleagues, researching and drafting papers, working on multi-media artefacts for online publication, presenting at conferences, working with groups of early childhood educators, teachers or schools – the work is highly varied and requires flexibility and initiative as well as creativity, resilience and imagination.

The [Primary Curriculum Framework](#) incorporates Language as a curriculum area in a redeveloped primary curriculum. The framework supports the introduction of modern foreign languages in stages 3 and 4 (third to sixth class), incrementally building on children's existing knowledge and awareness of language and progressing from a language awareness model to a competency model in stage 4 (fifth and sixth class). The draft curriculum specification can be accessed [here](#). An early enactment review of the Junior Cycle Modern Foreign Languages (JC MFL), a common specification for French, German, Italian and Spanish, was completed in 2023 and the actions arising from the review can be accessed [here](#).

Following Minister Foley's announcements on a reimagined senior cycle, a revised curriculum for LC Arabic will be introduced in schools in September 2025 and the curriculum specifications for LC French, Italian, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Lithuanian, and Mandarin Chinese will also be reviewed and redeveloped in the coming years.

2. Responsibilities

Cross-sectoral Education Officer for Modern Foreign Languages (Primary and Post-Primary Education)

The Education Officer appointed will advise on and support work on curriculum development in the area of modern foreign languages. In doing this, they will

- oversee development work arising from *Languages Connect, Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017-2026*
- contribute to the redevelopment of the primary curriculum, including Modern Foreign Languages in the Primary Language Curriculum
- contribute to the redevelopment of senior cycle
- support work on the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle
- work with NCCA structures focused on the area of modern foreign languages
- support continuity between developments in language education in the primary curriculum and in the post-primary curriculum
- work with networks of schools on the developments in hand.

In carrying out this work, the Education Officer will:

- contribute to the process of generating curriculum and assessment specifications and guidelines
- support and work with teachers to develop and gather examples of teaching and learning, and to quality assure examples of student work related to specifications developed
- engage with relevant research and literature to inform developments
- prepare working papers, discussion documents, draft reports and other such documentation in relation to curriculum and assessment matters
- contribute to the development of information and curriculum support materials
- assist in disseminating information on curriculum and assessment at all levels of the education system
- contribute to broader areas of work, as required, related to developments in early childhood, special, primary and post-primary education
- work effectively with others both as a team member and a team leader as requested by the Chief Executive or his/her nominee
- publish materials, and maintain and update content on webpages on NCCA websites
- carry out administrative tasks directly associated with their work
- support the work of NCCA Boards and Development Groups to which they may be assigned
- attend and/or address meetings of Council at the direction of the Chief Executive or his/her nominee or meet with other groups and individuals on behalf of Council.

3. Requirements

Applicants must (on the latest date for receipt of completed applications):

- hold a relevant recognised degree or equivalent professional or teaching qualification

- have experience, as leader or participant, in curriculum and/or assessment developments associated with modern foreign languages in an educational setting
- have knowledge of current thinking and research in relation to curriculum and assessment broadly, and in the area of modern foreign languages
- have comprehensive knowledge of the Irish education system, and of current curriculum and assessment issues
- have excellent communication and presentation skills and the ability to write to a very high standard
- have excellent inter-personal skills, and a well-developed ability to work as part of a team
- have excellent organisational skills
- have research skills, including data gathering and recording, analysing, summarising and report writing
- have good digital media skills.

Desirable

- hold a post-graduate qualification in the field or a cognate area
- have proficiency to work through the medium of Irish
- have access to professional networks in primary and post-primary education associated with the teaching and learning of modern foreign languages
- have skills and experience working with websites and digital media
- have project management skills.

4. Remuneration

The Education Officer salary scales are as follows:

Non-Personal Pension Contribution (Non-PPC)

This rate will apply where the appointee is not required under law to make a Personal Pension Contribution.

€58,975 €62,728 €65,395 €68,179 €70,950 €73,696 €77,152

€81,208 €86,011 €90,881 €94,828 €97,904 €100,962

NMAX LSI1* LSI2*

PPC

€61,977 €65,922 €68,732 €71,653 €74,572 €77,459 €79,888

€85,487 €90,539 €95,669 €99,835 €103,050 €106,276

NMAX LSI1* LSI2**

This rate will apply where the appointee is a civil or public servant first recruited on or after 1 Jan 2011.

* After three years satisfactory service at the maximum,

** After six years satisfactory service at the maximum.

In respect of new entrants to the public service, Government policy dictates that all posts be filled at the first point of the scale. However, a person appointed on secondment from within the education sector who has higher earnings than the first point of the Education Officer scale may be placed on an appropriate point on the relevant scale. Please note allowances and their application are the subject of ongoing review by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and may be subject to change. In addition, please note that the rate of remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government pay policy and that the salary is subject to all statutory deductions including Pension-Related Deductions.

5. Annual Leave

The annual leave allowance will be 27 working days per annum, pro rata for the duration of the contract. This allowance, which is subject to the usual conditions regarding the granting of annual leave, is on the basis of a five-day week and is exclusive of the usual public holidays.

6. Location

The NCCA currently has offices in both Dublin city centre* and Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Alternatively, NCCA will consider procuring alternative suitable office accommodation to be agreed by the Chief Executive for staff based in other locations. NCCA staff have the opportunity to apply for NCCA's blended working policy upon commencement of the role. This facilitates working from home on part of the working week and takes into account the varied nature of the role of Education Officer including attendance at offsite meetings, consultations and events etc.

**The NCCA has an interim office at Sir. John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2. However, from early 2025 the NCCA Dublin office will be located at Distillers Building, Smithfield, Dublin 7 (adjacent to the Luas line).*

7. Equal Opportunities

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment is an equal opportunities employer.

8. Probationary Period

The appointment is subject to an initial probationary period of not less than six months. Should the successful candidate be satisfactory as regards health, conduct, efficiency and performance generally during the probationary period, they will then, on completion of the period, be appointed for the remainder of the secondment/contract.

Should service be deemed unsatisfactory, the appointment will be terminated at a suitable date appropriate for the secondment agreement/contract. (In the case of secondees, this will be the end of the school year in which the probationary period took place).

9. Format of the Competition

NCCA reserves the right to **shortlist** applicants.

Selection will be on the basis of a **competitive interview**. The interview will be based on the competencies required to carry out the duties and responsibilities as set out in the description of the appointments and the responsibilities of the posts. Candidates shortlisted for interview will be asked to provide details of three current referees. Candidates will be contacted before referees are consulted.

Applicants may be set a **task in advance of the interview** which would require them to offer a written analysis of a policy issue relevant to the work of the NCCA and/or prepare a short presentation on a given theme. If used, the outputs from these tasks, will be made available to the interview board to assist them in making a final decision on the application.

Further details of the tasks, including the scheduled dates for completion, will issue to shortlisted candidates where relevant.

10. Completing the application form

Applicants must complete an official application form for the Education Officer post being applied for, available at <https://ncca.ie/en/about-ncca/corporate-information/careers/>.

The completed official application form should then be attached and emailed to eocompetition@ncca.ie. The application form is in Word document format. Please answer all questions included in the form. Please do not forward any certificates or references with the application form. The onus is on candidates to establish eligibility on the application form.

When submitting your application form, please name the document as follows:

- Education Officer_MFL_YOUR NAME.

It is essential that you note the name of the post that you are applying for in the email subject line.

11. Closing Date

The application form must be completed and emailed to reach eocompetition@ncca.ie not later than **12 noon, 4th June 2024**.

All applications are acknowledged. Change of address and/or email address should be notified to us immediately.

12. Eligibility

Candidates are not eligible to apply if they have availed of the public service early retirement schemes set out below.

Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER)

It is a condition of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) as set out in Department of Finance Circular 12/09 that retirees under that Scheme are debarred from applying for another

position in the same employment or the same sector. Therefore, such retirees may not apply for this position.

Department of Health and Children Circular 7/2010

The Department of Health Circular 7/2010 of 1 November 2010 introduced a Targeted Voluntary Early Retirement (VER) and Voluntary Redundancy Scheme (VRS). It is a condition of the VER scheme that persons availing of the scheme will not be eligible for re-employment in the public health sector or in the wider public service or in a body wholly or mainly funded from public monies. The same prohibition on re-employment applies under the redundancy scheme also, except that the prohibition is for a period of 7 years, after which time any re-employment will require the approval of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. People who availed of either of these schemes are not eligible to compete in this competition.

Declaration

Applicants will be required to declare whether they have previously availed of a public service scheme of incentivised early retirement. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Public Service employment and/or where they have received a payment-in-lieu in respect of service in any Public Service employment.

13. Confidentiality and Data Protection

Subject to the provisions of the F.O.I. Act, 1997 applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Data Protection

The NCCA, as a statutory body of the Department of Education and Skills, advises the Minister on curriculum and assessment for early childhood education, primary and post-primary schools (Education, 1998, Article 41). The Council undertakes the recruitment, assessment and selection of suitable candidates for appointment according to the Recruitment and Appointments Act (2004). The NCCA uses external board members for shortlisting and interviewing. These members receive applicants' data in order to assist in the assessment and selection processes. They have a duty to keep such information confidential and secure, and to delete following the completion of the processes.

In the case of applicants taking up posts in the NCCA, their data is added to their HR files. Data of applicants on panels is held until the relevant panel elapses after which the data is deleted. Data of unsuccessful applicants is deleted within an appropriate interval following the conclusion of the recruitment process. All data gathered for the purpose of recruitment is stored in a confidential and secure manner.

14. Attendance at interview

Calls to interview for the Education Officer posts will be made within two weeks of the closing date. It is most likely that the interviews will take place in June 2024. Interviews will be held in Dublin on specific dates shortly thereafter.

The onus is on all applicants to make themselves available for the interview and to make whatever arrangements are necessary to ensure that they receive communications sent to them at the e-mail address specified on their application form. The NCCA will not be responsible for expenses incurred by applicants.

15. Deeming of candidature to be withdrawn

Applicants who-

- (a) do not, when requested, furnish such evidence as the NCCA requires in regard to any matter relevant to their candidature;
- (b) or do not attend the obligatory test(s) at the time(s) and place(s) appointed,
- (c) or, when offered appointment, do not accept appointment and take up duty as arranged;

shall, unless the NCCA in its absolute discretion decides otherwise, be deemed to have withdrawn their candidature.

16. Queries

If you have any queries relating to the process or the role, please contact recruitment@ncca.ie.



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