



## Circular

**Circular Number 0019/2026**

### **Concurrent Initial Teacher Education Bursary Scheme**

#### **(STEM Bursary)**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This circular sets out the criteria for the Concurrent Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Bursary Scheme also described as the STEM Bursary Scheme and provides information on the application process.
- 1.2 The objective of the STEM Bursary Scheme is to increase the number of students on concurrent STEM ITE programmes. The policy objective is to increase the availability of teachers in post-primary schools who are qualified in STEM subjects.
- 1.3 This circular contains:
  - General information
  - Criteria for eligibility
  - Application procedure
  - Queries and review process

#### **2. General Information**

- 2.1 A bursary of €2,000 each year for the final two years of their undergraduate initial teacher education programme will be made to each applicant who satisfies the eligibility criteria set out below. As such this bursary is a financial award given to students to assist with the costs of education.
- 2.2 Payments will not be pensionable and will not be subject to any pension deductions.



### **3. Criteria for Eligibility**

- 3.1 The scheme will apply to those commencing the final two years of an eligible ITE programme. Those repeating an academic year will not be eligible. For the avoidance of doubt, only those students entering the first of the final two years of an eligible ITE programme in the 2025/26 academic year may apply. In subsequent years, students on each of the final two years may apply.
- 3.2 Applicants must be undertaking an undergraduate initial teacher education programme accredited by the Teaching Council in at least one of the following subjects: Maths, Applied Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering and Computer Science, which upon completion qualifies them to register with the Teaching Council under Route 2 (post-primary).
- 3.3 The bursary is subject to the recipient agreeing to registering with the Teaching Council under Route 2 and being employed for 100 days and a minimum of 440 hours in approved teaching posts in one or more recognised school in the two years immediately following the completion of their ITE programme.
- 3.4 Should the recipient be unable to meet these requirements; the bursary will fall due for repayment to the Department.

### **4. Application Procedure**

- 4.1 A process will open for the receipt of applications from 30 January 2026. Applications must be received before the last working day of February in 2026 and subsequent years.
- 4.2 Applicants will be required to provide personal information and consent to the sharing of their data with and by relevant Higher Education institution and with their teacher payroll to confirm their eligibility with the criteria of the scheme.
- 4.3 Once an application has been deemed eligible, payments to applicants will issue as soon as possible after the last day of February in each academic year.



## 5. Queries and Review Process

- 5.1 Queries in relation to the Stem bursary can be addressed to [STEMBursary@education.gov.ie](mailto:STEMBursary@education.gov.ie)
- 5.2 Where it is determined that an applicant does not satisfy the eligibility criteria, they may seek a review of the decision by submitting a request to the Department to [STEMBursary@education.gov.ie](mailto:STEMBursary@education.gov.ie)

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