

The Post graduate Certificate and the Masters Programme

What is the PG Cert course?

The **Postgraduate Certificate in Post-16 Mathematics Education (PGCertP-16ME)** is a Masters level (level 7) programme of research and professional development in mathematics education at post-16 designed and taught as a collaboration between Plymouth University and Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI).

The PGCert is an award in its own right and provides 60 Masters level credits. It is designed to allow you to transfer your credit into Plymouth's MA Education programme and complete a full MA should you wish to do so.

The PGCert programme runs alongside your chosen MEI/FMSP CPD course selected from a list of eligible courses that focus on subject knowledge and pedagogy in the table below. The PGCert programme is designed to complement your subject knowledge course by giving you the opportunity to reflect on the wider issues and underlying research relating to post-16 education. It offers a number of distinctive features designed to make it a dynamic and professionally worthwhile experience for mathematics teachers.

- Starting with the MEI/FMSP CPD course, designed to support your mathematics subject knowledge and pedagogy, you then have the opportunity to enrol on the PGCert programme to develop your wider understanding of mathematics education through study at level 7.
- By focusing on your interests and needs, the programme provides a well-tailored, professionally useful, but also academically rigorous experience for mathematics educators.
- Pedagogically, the programme builds on Plymouth Institute of Education's extensive expertise in supporting teaching and learning.
- The programme comprises two modules (totalling 60 credits), but having completed it there is an option to continue studying towards a full Masters degree (180 credits).

Programme Structure

The PG Cert is part-time only and is studied over either one or two years. Each course is worth 30 credits (e.g. 'Teaching Further Mathematics 1' is worth 30 credits) and the programme is designed to offer flexibility so there are several ways in which you can gain the PGCertP-16M by studying MEI/FMSP CPD courses and undertaking the Masters elements.

If you wish to complete the programme in one academic year you can chose from the following course options; you need to choose one option from Semester 1 and one option from Semester 2:

Semester 1 (October to January)	Semester 2 (February to June)
Teaching Further Mathematics 1	Teaching Further Mathematics 2
Teaching Mechanics 1	Teaching Mechanics 2
Teaching Statistics 1	Teaching Statistics 2

Teaching Advanced Mathematics (TAM is a one year course) which we hope to offer from 2017

Please note, you cannot do the masters version of any module '2' without having done the corresponding module '1'.

If you wish to complete the course over two academic years you need to choose one option in year 1 then one option in year 2; this can be scheduled in either semester 1 or 2. You only need to select two options (e.g. in year 1 if you do 'Teaching Mechanics 1' you only need to study one more option which could be scheduled in Semester 1 or Semester 2)

Course studied in Year 1	Year 2 Semester 1	Year 2 Semester 2
Teaching Further Mathematics 1	Teaching Mechanics 1 Teaching Statistics 1	Teaching Further Mathematics 2
Teaching Mechanics 1	Teaching Further Mathematics 1 Teaching Statistics 1	Teaching Mechanics 2
Teaching Statistics 1	Teaching Further Mathematics 1 Teaching Mechanics 1	Teaching Statistics 2

Teaching and support

Each module on the PGCert programme begins with a series of small group seminars which are hosted online using a web conferencing platform called Blackboard Collaborate (which is the same web conferencing platform as the online tutorials that are part of your MEI/FMSP course). In addition to the online seminars, there is an optional face-to-face study day, usually in London, which allows you to meet course tutors and participants and develop your ideas through activities and discussion. After the seminars and study day, the module then continues through individual tutorial support conducted by phone or online. This means that the programme is open to anyone, wherever you are based.

After enrolling, you will have access to:

- the Plymouth University online learning environment and library which enables you to access academic books and journals;
- a specific 'Masters' course within Integral that offers resources and support via the Integral forums.

Assessment

Assessment for the PGCert programme is by means of written assignments. You will be expected to develop your own titles focused on the relationship between

theorising and practising mathematics teaching. By building this gradually into the teaching of the modules and focusing on your practice settings you will be able to develop academically strong, but practically useful, work at level-7.

To gain your 30 credits you must

- Complete the MEI/FMSP CPD course and pass the associated course assignment (professional level)
- Attend the online evening seminars with your tutor from Plymouth University and preferably attend a face-to-face study day to support your thinking/writing at level-7
- Complete the university assignment, with the support of your Plymouth University tutor, focusing on an aspect of your own practice that is of interest to you. The university assignment is a written piece of 4000 - 5000 words on a topic that you agree with your tutor. You will be given support and advice on choosing a suitable title for this piece.

Progression

When you have gained the 60 credits you can choose to take the award of **Postgraduate Certificate in Post-16 Mathematics Education** or you can decide you wish to continue your study and complete a full Masters in Education qualification. This means that if you are new, or returning, to level-7 study you can begin with a relatively contained award and move on if you are successful. To qualify for a Masters in Education you will be required to have gained 180 credits at level 7.

To continue to a full Masters you will transfer your 60 credits onto the **MA: Education** programme and continue to study with Plymouth University. For your remaining study you can choose to undertake one more module from within the MEI/FMSP CPD course suite *or* take one of the Plymouth University free standing modules, including independent study modules. There is then also one compulsory, research methods module that you have to take (Researching Education Practice in Context), though this can be studied at a distance as an independent study module.

The final stage of the Masters programme is to complete a dissertation on a topic of your choice. Your Plymouth university tutor will be able to offer you more information and advice about progression once you have started the PG Cert programme

Admission criteria

The programme is open to anyone who has a first degree in Mathematics or a related subject and has experience of working within education. It is ideally structured for practising teachers who wish to increase their knowledge and understanding by having the opportunity to reflect on the wider issues and underlying research relating to education and teaching.

Course fees

The current course fee is £550 per 30 credit unit for modules on the PGCert. This fee is in addition to the fee paid for your MEI/FMSP CPD course.

Note that if you continue on the MA route after completing the PGCert Post-16 Maths Ed award modules are then charged at the current Plymouth fee – see www.plymouth.ac.uk/study/fees

How to apply ...

If you want to undertake these modules towards PG Certificate (Post-16 Mathematics Education):

1. Apply via MEI/FMSP for your chosen course. On the application form you will be asked if you wish to study the course with or without Masters accreditation. You should choose the option with Masters accreditation.
2. If you do not choose the option with Masters accreditation at this stage, you will be given another chance to choose the Masters study once the MEI/FMSP course is underway..
3. When the MEI/FMSP course has started you will be asked to confirm your Masters application by filling in a short form. MEI will then enrol you on the additional level-7 module with Plymouth. All enrolments are coordinated by MEI.
4. Once the initial enrolment has been submitted you will be prompted to confirm enrolment with Plymouth and register for the Plymouth University online support services

FAQ

- **What are the deadlines for the university assignments?**
Plymouth University's teaching schedule is organised across two semesters (Sept-Jan and Feb-June); assignments are usually be submitted to the university in May for the first semester and August/September for the second, allowing plenty of time to complete them.
- **How long do I have to complete the PG Cert?**
You can take one or two years to complete the PGCert but you have to enrol at the start of the academic year for all of the modules you want to take that year.
- **Can I transfer existing Masters credits to the PG Cert?**
You can apply to transfer 30 credits of previous study into the PGCert programme via the university. You can request a link to the form that needs to be completed from your university tutor. This must be for study that relates to post-16 mathematics teaching broadly matching the content of one of the programme modules and must be done as you start the programme, not retrospectively.
- **How do I transfer existing Masters credits to the full Masters programme?**
It is often possible to bring in an additional 30 credits from a previous PGCE programme, or other level-7 work (though note that this is not guaranteed and conditions apply). You will apply for this via the university as for the PG Cert.
- **How long do I have to complete a full MA?**
You have up to 5 years for the full MA

Contact details

MEI admin: cpd@mei.org.uk

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Plymouth University tutor: Nick Pratt (n.pratt@plymouth.ac.uk)

MEI/FMSP tutor: Sue de Pomerai (sue.depomerai@mei.org.uk)

Plymouth University module codes and teaching schedule

Semester 1	Semester 2
METM701 Teaching Advanced Mathematics 1 (from 2017)	METM702 Teaching Advanced Mathematics 2 (from 2017)
METM703 Teaching Further Mathematics 1	METM704 Teaching Further Mathematics 2
METM705 Teaching Mechanics 1	METM706 Teaching Mechanics 2
METM707 Teaching Statistics 1	METM708 Teaching Statistics 2