

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 consists of two modules (totalling 60 credits at level 7). Each module runs alongside an MEI/FMSP CPD course unit. The list of eligible course units that focus on subject knowledge and pedagogy are given in the table below. The PGCert programme requires you to enrol on two MEI/FMSP CPD course units as an entry requirement for then undertaking the Plymouth modules that make up the programme. It is designed to complement your subject knowledge course units 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.

- After enrolling on the first of two MEI/FMSP CPD course units, 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.
- On completion of the two PG Cert modules (totalling 60 credits) 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 module 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 Level-7 elements.

If you wish to complete the programme in one academic year you can choose from the following pairs of modules, but you must choose both modules from any one row:

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 1	Teaching Advanced Mathematics 2

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
- and then one option in Year 2 from either semester 1 or 2 on the same row.

Course studied in Year 1	Year 2 Semester 1 (Oct-Jan)	Year 2 Semester 2 (Feb-June)
Teaching Further Mathematics 1	Teaching Mechanics 1 Teaching Statistics 1	Teaching Further Mathematics 2
Teaching Mechanics 1	Teaching Further Mathematics 1	Teaching Mechanics 2
Teaching Statistics 1	Teaching Further Mathematics 1	Teaching Statistics 2
Teaching Advanced Mathematics 1	Teaching Mechanics 1 Teaching Statistics 1	Teaching Advanced Mathematics 2

** Notes:

- you can only do version '2' of a module (e.g. TFM2) if you have already done part 1.
- some pairs of modules may be co-taught depending on numbers.

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. These modules are sometimes co-taught, dependent on numbers of enrolments, though this also helps to draw comparisons between

different areas of mathematics and to consider pedagogical differences. In addition to the online seminars, there is usually an optional face-to-face study day held in London (subject to demand). The day enables course participants to meet the course tutors and to develop ideas through activities and discussion. After the seminars and study day, the module then continues through individual tutorial support conducted by phone or online. The programme is designed to make it possible for all teachers to be able to access study sessions and support regardless of where they are geographically based.

After enrolling, you will have access to:

- Plymouth University's online learning environment and library which enables you to access academic books and journals;
- a specific 'Level-7' course hosted online that offers resources and support for studying.

Assessment

The PG Cert programme is assessed by two written assignments set by the university. 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 corresponding MEI/FMSP CPD course unit and pass the associated assignment (professional level). This can be done in advance of enrolling with Plymouth (but the university reserves the right to refuse admission if the work submitted to MEI is more than 2 years old).
- 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 written 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 written assignment requires 4000 - 5000 words on a topic that you agree with your tutor in advance. 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 continue to a full **MA Education** you will be required to have gained 180 credits at level 7. To do this, you will transfer your 60 credits from the PG Certificate programme onto the **MA (Education)** programme and continue to study with Plymouth University, independent of MEI. For your remaining study you can take one of the Plymouth University free standing modules,

including a 'practice related enquiry' that is taught at a distance and involves an independent small-scale study. 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.

The final stage of the MA 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. Note that entry is subject to application through MEI and you are required to do working on, or have previously completed, the respective MEI CPD course units. Although we would expect most candidates from MEI's CPD courses to be suitable for the programme, Plymouth University reserves the right not to offer places if they consider applications to be inappropriate (for example, if too much time has elapsed between completing an MEI/FMSP CPD course unit and applying to enrol on the PGCert Programme)).

Course fees

The course fee for 2016-17 is £525 per 30 credit unit for modules on the PGCert. Fees for future years and may rise slightly. This fee is in addition to the fee paid for your MEI/FMSP CPD course unit.

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 ...

(Note: TAM candidates will apply after/near the end of their MEI/FMSP course. Separate arrangements will be made for this.)

For other candidates, if you want to undertake these modules towards PG Certificate (Post-16 Mathematics Education):

1. Apply via MEI/FMSP for your chosen course unit(s). 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 opportunity to choose the Masters study once the MEI/FMSP CPD course unit is underway.
3. When the MEI/FMSP CPD course unit 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 computing account, which gives access to the library (including e-library) and other 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 April 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 each 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 (at level-7) 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?**
Instead of bringing 30 credits into the PG Cert programme, it is often possible to bring in 60 credits from a previous PGCE programme, or other level-7 work, at the point of transfer to the MA, leaving you just the dissertation to complete (though note that this is not guaranteed and conditions apply). You would apply for this via the university at the point of transfer from PG Cert to MA.
- How long do I have to complete a full MA?**
You have up to 5 years for the full MA. Full details of the MA programme can be [found here](#).

Contact details

MEI admin: cpd@mei.org.uk

Plymouth university artshumadmin@plymouth.ac.uk

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 (Oct-Jan)	Semester 2 (Feb-June)
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