



The Access to Post-Primary Teaching (APT) Project: Student Briefing Document

Are you interested in becoming a post-primary teacher? If so, then read on!

What is the APT Project?

The Access to Post-Primary Teaching (APT) Project is a joint initiative between the National University of Ireland Galway and St. Angela's College, Sligo which aims to *recruit and educate* individuals from under-represented groups who are interested in becoming post-primary teachers.

The APT Project is providing direct entry routes into St. Angela's three initial teacher education programmes for students with select QQI-FET qualifications from our partner Further Education providers in the Border, Midlands West (BMW) region. This project is also being conducted in partnership with the Access Centre at St. Angela's College.

How do I get involved?

A total of 10 places have been reserved at each FE partner College/Institute for students who are interested in participating in the APT Project. If you'd like to get involved, you must complete a variety of in-reach and outreach activities throughout the academic year, achieve a QQI-FET qualification with 8 distinctions in the year prior to entering St. Angela's, and apply for entry into one of St. Angela's Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes through the CAO with a start date of September 2019.

Which Initial Teacher Education programmes can I enrol in?

The following ITE programmes are available through the APT Project at St. Angela's. Each programme is 5 years in duration:

- AS001--Home Economics & Biology Second Level Teaching
- AS002--Home Economics & Religious Education Second Level Teaching
- AS003--Home Economics & Irish Second Level Teaching¹

In Year 2 of the project (2018/2019), up to a total of 10 places will be reserved in the above ITE programmes for entrants from the partner Further Education providers.

Of the total number of places, 1 place will be reserved for a student from each FE provider based on merit, and if necessary, random selection. The remaining two places will be opened to APT students in all of the FE providers, and allocated on merit, and if necessary, random selection.

What will I study in each programme?

Every student will study Home Economics & Education for all five years of their course. The second teaching subject they choose (i.e. either Biology, Religious Education, or Irish) will be studied for four years.

¹ A qualification in Irish is required prior to entry.



St. Angela's College, Sligo
Coláiste San Aingeal, Sligeach
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Home Economics examines the interrelated areas of Food Studies, Family Resource Management, and Textiles, Fashion and Design.

The **Education** component explores topics such as: History and Policy of Education, Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology of Education, Special Educational Needs, Professional Studies, and Information and Communication Technologies. Microteaching and School Placement (student-teaching) are also included. Students engage in school placement during the second semester of each year of their studies.

Biology and related science modules include the following areas: Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Special Methodology of Science and Biology Teaching.

The **Religious Education** component includes exploration of Theology, Contemporary Religious Practice, Religion in Education, World Religions, Biblical Studies, Ethics, and Ethical Issues.

The study of **Irish** includes: Irish Literature, Irish Poetry, Drama, Folklore, Place-names, Sociolinguistics, and Irish Media and Film Studies.

What supports are available to me?

The APT project provides a number of pre-entry and post-entry supports for successful QQI-FET entrants. The pre-entry supports consist of InReach activities including short 'taster' courses in areas such as Textiles & Design, and Home Economics which take place at St. Angela's during the academic year, as well as OutReach activities that will be provided by St. Angela's at your FE College/Institute. Post-entry supports include €1000 equipment bursary on entry to Year 1, a €500 School Placement grant for each of the five years of study, a Personal and Academic Liaison (PAL) to support each student during their studies, and academic writing and subject specific support.

Do I qualify to participate?

In order to participate in the APT Project and apply to the ITE programmes at St. Angela's, you must be eligible for free-fees, currently registered on an approved QQI-FET Level 5/6 course at one of the FE partner institutions, be a first-time entrant to Higher Education, and meet financial requirements for the *SUSI Maintenance Grant*, or be in receipt of a *Back to Education Allowance*.

Where can I go for more information?

For more information on St. Angela's ITE programmes, please see the "Undergraduate" section at:
http://www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie/departments/index_per_dept.php?dept=Programmes

St. Angela's **Undergraduate Prospectus:**

<http://www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie/Downloads/st%20angelas%20prospectus.pdf>

If you have specific questions about the APT project, please contact:

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