

POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO MONAGHAN INSTITUTE YEAR 2026/2027

Patron's Approval

Approved by the Chief Executive of Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board on the 1st day of December 2022.

A decision on an application for admission will be based on the implementation of this Policy, the information set out in the annual Admission Notice of Monaghan Institute and the information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission, once received before the closing date set out in the annual Admission Notice. The Director of Monaghan Institute is responsible for the implementation of this Admission Policy.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No
1. Glossary of terms	3
2. Admission statement	4
3. Legal framework	5
4. General admission provisions	6
5. Applications to study at Monaghan Institute	8

1 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

'Applicant' means the person who has made the application for admission to Monaghan Institute on behalf of the Learner, which may include the Learner.

'Learner' means a person in respect of whom the application is being made. All uses of the word throughout this Policy therefore imply 'prospective' as part of the interpretation. The definition also captures the legal definition of 'Student' within the meaning of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018.

'Gender', in line with the definition of "*the gender ground*" in the Equal Status Act 2000, is such that "*one is male and the other is female*" This does not prejudice any learner who is Intersex or identifies as Androgynous/Androgyne, Bigender, Demi gender, Gender Fluid, Genderqueer, Multigender, Neutrois, Non-binary, Transgender, Transsexual or otherwise.

'Parent' has the same meaning as in the Education Act 1998 and includes a foster parent and a guardian appointed under the Guardianship of Children Acts, 1964 to 1997.

'Intake Group' means the most junior year group of any course, including Learners enrolled in courses which are only one year in duration and Learners who may have already completed a course (or more than one) and who are applying to do a different course.

2 ADMISSION STATEMENT

Monaghan Institute is a centre of learning committed to providing education and training of the highest quality. As part of Cavan and Monaghan Education Training Board (CMETB), we continue to strive to excel in responding to the educational needs of the community. The programmes we offer are learner-centred and provided in a friendly, inclusive, and supportive environment.

Monaghan Institute is committed to being an inclusive college. Fundamental to the implementation of Monaghan Institute's Admissions Policy is the principle of equality. In placing the learner at the centre of the learning process, Monaghan Institute is committed to creating an appropriate learning environment in which individual differences are accepted and embraced.

Accordingly, Monaghan Institute shall not discriminate in its admission of a Learner based on the following grounds:

- 2.1. Gender of the Learner or Applicant.
- 2.2. Civil status of the Learner or Applicant.
- 2.3. Family status of the Learner or Applicant.
- 2.4. Sexual orientation of the Learner or Applicant.
- 2.5. Religion of the Learner or Applicant.
- 2.6. Disability of the Learner or Applicant.
- 2.7. Race of the Learner or Applicant.
- 2.8. The Learner's or Applicant's membership of the Traveller community.
- 2.9. Special educational needs of the Learner or Applicant.

For post-leaving certificate courses and further-education or training courses, costs may be payable.

3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

CMETB was established under the Education and Training Board Act 2013 which sets out the functions of all ETBs, including to establish and maintain recognised schools, centres for education and education and training facilities in each ETB's functional area.

The Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 place a duty on all recognised schools to prepare and publish an Admission Policy. The Board of Management of Monaghan Institute, a recognised school, is a committee established under section 44 of the Education and Training Board Act 2013 and also constitutes a Board of Management within the meaning of the Education Act 1998.

In addition, Colleges of Further Education are regarded as 'providers' under the Quality and Qualifications (Education and Training) Acts 2012 (as amended). As required thereunder, providers of further education and training courses must establish procedures for access, transfer, and progression of Learners in accordance with the policies and criteria for access, transfer and progression published by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

The Education Act 1998 provides for an appeal process in the event of a refusal to admit a Learner.

4 GENERAL ADMISSION PROVISIONS

A decision on an application for admission shall be based on:

- the implementation of this Admission Policy,
- the annual Admission Notice of Monaghan Institute and the
- Information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission.

In processing an application, Monaghan Institute shall not consider:

- 4.1 The occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a Learner's Parent(s);
- 4.2 A Learner's connection to Monaghan Institute due to a member of their family attending or having previously attended Monaghan Institute.
- 4.3 The date and time on which an application for admission was received by Monaghan Institute, as long as it is received during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual Admission Notice for the relevant academic year.

Admission to a particular course is governed by the following principle that will be assessed through the application form, and possibly an interview and/or assessment where required for particular courses:

- 4.4 That, in the professional judgement of Monaghan Institute the Learner's academic ability, skills or aptitude are deemed suitable for the course to which application was made on their behalf. Such academic ability, skills or aptitude shall include the requirements set out at Appendix 1 of this Admission Policy.

Monaghan Institute will consider the offer of a place to every Learner seeking admission, who meets the entry requirements for the course in Monaghan Institute

to which they have applied, as outlined in 4.4 above, unless one or more of the following applies:

- 4.5 The Learner fails to confirm in writing that they accept the Code of Behaviour and that they shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such Code.
- 4.6 Information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

Subject to 4.5 and 4.6, where Monaghan Institute considers an application, each application which meets the entry requirements of the course, shall be met with an offer of a place, unless the course is oversubscribed, in which case, selection criteria will be applied to each application. This is without prejudice to the requirement for all courses to have a minimum enrolment number in order to proceed.

Section 5 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to specific admission provisions.

SECTION 5

APPLICATIONS TO STUDY AT

Monaghan Institute

5 APPLICATIONS TO STUDY AT MONAGHAN INSTITUTE

5.1 Admission Provisions

- 5.1.1. Oversubscription
- 5.1.2. Selection criteria
- 5.1.3. Selection process
- 5.1.4. Late applications
- 5.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 5.1.6. Acceptance of a place
- 5.1.7. Refusal
- 5.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer
- 5.1.9. Appeals
- 5.1.10. Deferrals

5.2 Appeals

- 5.2.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 5.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 5.2.3. Basis for a review by the Board of Management

5.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS

Subject to 4.5 and 4.6, where Monaghan Institute is not oversubscribed, all applications which meet the published entry requirements for the selected course will be offered a place therein. Such entry requirements are used for the purpose of assessing the Learner's academic ability, skills or aptitude, in line with the authority vested in Monaghan Institute by section 62(e) of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018. Information relating to the courses on offer, and any course specific entry requirements is available to Applicants/Learners in the prospectus of Monaghan Institute and on its website at www.monaghaninstitute.ie.

In assisting Monaghan Institute in determining whether a Learner meets the entry requirements for a given course, it may request that the Learner attend for interview, be referred for an educational assessment, be the subject of a Vetting application to the National Vetting Bureau in line with the requirements under the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012 or provide a referral from a specified independent third-party.

In line with section 62(7)(o) of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018, admission to a course may also depend on the Learner meeting certain eligibility criteria laid down by the funding body for the course, including age.

5.1.1 Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 5.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled, which shall remain valid only for the academic year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Monaghan Institute is in a position to offer further places that become available on a particular course up to the 30th Sept of that

academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Learners' applications have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if an Applicant does not receive a place in Monaghan Institute for a given academic year, but they wish to be considered for admission in the following academic year, a new application must be made during the dates specified by Monaghan Institute as being the period when it will accept applications.

5.1.2 Selection criteria

Monaghan Institute will apply the following criteria in the order in which they are listed for admission to the Intake Group:

- 5.1.2.1 The Learner's marking at interview;
- 5.1.2.2 The Learner's marking of any assessment conducted at interview or otherwise;

5.1.3 Selection process

Monaghan Institute will apply the following process to the selection criteria in order to determine admission ranking to the Intake Group:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where Monaghan Institute still has places available, the remaining Applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within Monaghan Institute. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Monaghan Institute will apply a random lottery to assign any available places on the course/s, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

5.1.4 Late applications

An application received by Monaghan Institute after the closing date published by Monaghan Institute and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Monaghan Institute is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by Monaghan Institute before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by Monaghan Institute subject to section(s) 4.5 and 4.6.

5.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place

Where an Applicant is in receipt of an offer of a place on a course within Monaghan Institute but does not accept the offer, or Monaghan Institute withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Applicant on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds etc. until all places on the relevant course have been filled.

5.1.6 Acceptance of a place

If a Learner in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by Monaghan Institute. Having received an offer of a place on the course for which they applied, the Applicant shall:

- 5.1.6.1** Indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form and complying with requirements as laid out in the offer letter, within 2 weeks of issuing by Monaghan Institute.
- 5.1.6.2** Arranging for the completion of any specified payment required for the particular course to which the application was made.

Failure to fully complete the foregoing within 2 weeks of offer issuing by Monaghan Institute, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for withdrawal of an offer, as set out below.

Note: As part of the course acceptance process learners will also be required to agree to and complete the PLSS Data Gathering Form and Code of Conduct at Registration.

5.1.7 Refusal

Where a Learner in respect of whom an application has been made has not been offered a place on the particular course in Monaghan Institute, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

- 5.1.7.1. The reasons that the Learner was not offered a place Monaghan Institute;
- 5.1.7.2. Details of the Learner's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
- 5.1.7.3. Details of the right to appeal the decision.

As set out in 4.6, an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 5.1.7.4. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

5.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 5.1.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect; or
- 5.1.8.2. The Applicant fails to confirm acceptance of an offer of [admission by completing](#) the Acceptance Criteria in 5.1.6 above, within 2 weeks of offer issuing by Monaghan Institute; or
- 5.1.8.3. The Applicant fails to complete the PLSS Data Gathering Form at Registration; or
- 5.1.8.4. The Applicant fails to agree to the Code of Conduct at Registration.

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by Monaghan Institute the Learner on whose behalf the application was made shall lose their place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that Applicant shall be treated as a late application in line with section 5.1.4 above.

In the event of a cancellation of a course (due to insufficient enrolment numbers, resources difficulties *etc.*) any Applicant(s) in receipt of an offer will be notified of the cancellation. In such circumstances, Applicants may be offered a place on a different course subject to a place being available therein. Where an Applicant declines a place on such an alternative course, any fees already paid (excluding administration fee) for the course will be refunded to the Applicant.

5.1.9 Appeals

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Monaghan Institute regarding admission to Monaghan Institute see section 5.3.

5.1.10 Deferrals

Applicants who have been offered and have accepted a place on a course at Monaghan Institute, but then decide not to take up the place, may not elect to defer

their place on the course to the following academic year. The applicant should submit a new application the following year during the dates specified by Monaghan Institute.

Applicants who elect not to take up an offered course at Monaghan Institute place will be refunded any fees already paid (excluding administration fee).

5.2. APPEALS

5.2.1. **Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:**

Prior to making an appeal, an applicant is required to request a review by the Board of Management of the decision to refuse admission in writing, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the college office, for it to be reviewed by the Board of Management of Monaghan Institute. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within (21) twenty-one calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit and must: (a) be based on the implementation of the school's admission policy and the content of the school's annual admission notice and (b) set out the grounds of the request. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the college office or online by emailing info@monaghaninstitute.ie.

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Management, or the Board of Management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's *'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29'*, such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the Board of Management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal and may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

5.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission to Monaghan Institute for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the Board of Management, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the college office, for it to be reviewed by the Board of Management of Monaghan Institute. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within (21) twenty-one calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education after the publication of this policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing info@monaghaninstitute.ie. (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the Board of Management in writing to that effect.)

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's *'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29'*, such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the Board of Management is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Management, that Applicant may also apply to bring an

appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

5.2.3. Basis for a review by the Board of Management:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the Board of Management to review a decision of the college to refuse admission must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the Monaghan Institute Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to review the decision.

Appendix 1: English language requirements on entry

The table below sets out the **recommended minimum requirements** for English language for admission to courses leading to full or part awards in Further Education and Training in CMETB. It should be noted that the levels listed represent the minimum standard needed in general, and in some field areas, higher levels may be required. FET applicants for whom English is second language will be required to provide evidence of English language proficiency through **one** of the following mechanisms:

1. A valid certificate in English language from one of the institutions listed in the table below.
2. English language proficiency assessment conducted by CMETB during the enrolment process, in line with the requirements set out in Appendix 2 of this Policy.
3. Recognition of prior learning, which may be applied to Learners who have, in the previous 12 months, successfully achieved a full award in a cognate discipline at an appropriate level on the National Framework of Qualifications, *e.g.* at NFQ Level 4 if applying for a course at NFQ Level 5.

	Minimum English Level	International Examinations	Minimum Grade
Courses at Level 3*	Minimum B1 in all skills on entry (reading, writing, speaking, and listening)	Cambridge Preliminary English Test (PET)	Pass
Courses at Level 4	Minimum B2.1 in all skills on entry	Cambridge Preliminary English Test (PET)	Distinction

		Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE)	Grade C
		IELTS	5.5
Courses at Level 5	Minimum B2.2 in all skills on entry	Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE)	Grade B or higher
		IELTS	6
Courses at Level 6	Minimum B2.2 in all skills on entry	Cambridge First Certificate in English (FCE)	Grade B or higher
		Cambridge Advanced (CAE)	Borderline Fail Min 170points
		Cambridge Proficiency (CPE)	Unsuccessful With min. 170 points

Please note: IELTS certificates are only valid for 2 years from the date of assessment. It is recommended that CMETB applies the same validity duration to all other examinations.

*Exceptions apply for FET applicants to single module courses in the Adult Education Service, *e.g.* English as a Second Language, ESOL, or any ESOL course offered by a College of Further Education.

Appendix 2: English language proficiency assessment

English language assessment tools will be devised centrally and administered locally by designated staff in CMETB.

In order to ensure fair and consistent assessment of English language proficiency across and within centres, the following measures will be compulsory:

1. A number of staff from each centre will be trained to conduct and mark assessments to ensure a common understanding of language levels and consistency of marking across centres.
2. Centres will be required to ensure that assessments are only conducted by designated assessors. To allow for the possibility of scheduling late registration during holiday periods, centres could request support from the Adult Education Service in administering and marking assessments.

Implementation and Review of Policy

1. The Director and Board of Management of Monaghan Institute will be responsible for the implementation of this policy.
2. This policy shall be reviewed periodically, in light of emerging legislation and circulated Guidelines from the Department of Education from its official approval by Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board and Monaghan Institute Board of Management.

This policy was reviewed in November 2020 in light of commencement of changes to the Section 29 Appeals procedures under the Education (Admission to school/FE colleges) Act 2018 and approved by the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team on 11 January 2021.

This policy was ratified by the Monaghan Institute Board of Management on 2nd Feb 2021.

This policy was further reviewed and approved by the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team on 1st December 2021.

This policy was ratified by the Monaghan Institute Board of Management on 7th December 2021.

This policy was further reviewed and approved by the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team on 1st December 2023.

This policy was ratified by the Monaghan Institute Board of Management on 13th December 2023.

This policy was ratified by the Monaghan Institute Board of Management on 4th December 2024.