



## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION SHEET FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (UNITED KINGDOM)

### **Universities and Other Higher Education Institutions Recognized in Prince Edward Island (PEI)**

Only those higher education institutions that are established or approved by an appropriate educational authority (usually a government body) are recognized by the PEI Office of the Registrar.

In the case of Northern Ireland, we recognize those higher education institutions that are established or approved by national government authority.

The United Kingdom's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) includes on its website a list of all recognized British universities and other higher education institutions which are authorized to issue qualifications. If your university or other higher education institution is found on that list, then most likely we recognize it.

For a link to that list on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' website, see: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/higher-education/recognised-uk-degrees/recognised-bodies>

### **Pre-Service Teacher Education Programs Recognized in Prince Edward Island**

Only those pre-service teacher education programs that are recognized or approved by an appropriate educational authority (usually a government body) in your country are recognized by the PEI Office of the Registrar.

In the case of Northern Ireland, we recognize those pre-service teacher education programs that are recognized or approved by the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI).

In general, the GTCNI, in partnership with Northern Ireland's respective education department, is responsible for recognizing or approving pre-service teacher education programs. Hence, found on its website is a list of all universities and other higher education institutions that are recognized or approved to offer pre-service teacher education programs. If the university or other higher education institution where you completed your pre-service teacher education program is found on that list, then most likely we recognize your pre-service teacher education program.

For a link to that list on the GTCNI's website, see: <http://www.gtcni.org.uk/index.cfm/page/Links/area/information>

### **Specific Programs Not Recognized in Prince Edward Island**

Any programs that do not meet our minimum requirements for an acceptable teacher education program will not be recognized.

### **Obtaining Academic Records**

In Northern Ireland academic records or official transcripts are issued by universities and other higher education institutions.

When seeking to obtain your academic records or official transcripts you are generally required to submit a **written request by fax, email or post** to your university's Academic Records Division. Your full name, date of birth and student ID number (if known) should be included. Generally, information cannot be provided over the phone.

Academic records or official transcripts must be mailed directly to us from every higher education institution you have attended. We will not accept transcripts submitted by you even if they are sealed or notarized. We will not accept transcripts by fax or email. Transcripts received must be in the original language of issue.

If the PEI Office of the Registrar receives transcripts in languages other than English or French, we will send a copy to you. You will need to have the documents translated into either English or French and send the original translations to us.

### **Obtaining Statements of Professional Standing**

A Statement of Professional Standing is a document that states you are a teacher in good standing and that your teaching license has never been revoked, cancelled, or suspended for any disciplinary reasons. This document usually comes from the government body or other licensing body that oversees teachers.

A Statement of Professional Standing is required and may be obtained from the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI). Additional Statements of Professional Standing are required from all other jurisdictions where you have held or hold a teaching certificate. All Statements of Professional Standing must be mailed directly to the PEI Office of the Registrar.

The GTCNI's contact information is found below:

General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland	
<b>Phone:</b>	(028) 9033 3390
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@gtcni.org.ukregistration@gtcni.org.uk">info@gtcni.org.ukregistration@gtcni.org.uk</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.gtcni.org.uk/">http://www.gtcni.org.uk/</a>
<b>Postal addresses</b>	3rd Floor Albany House, 73- 75 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7AF

## Teaching Certificate

You do not need to submit a copy of your teaching certificate. Your Statement of Professional Standing will supply this information.

## Credit Hour Equivalencies

Northern Irish universities and other higher education institutions utilize the Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS). Generally, under this system one course or module is worth 15 credit hours or points. In most cases, students are expected to take four courses per semester to be considered full-time.

The PEI Office of the Registrar recognizes the CATS system. In PEI, our university, the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), generally utilizes a 3 credit hours or points per course system. Found below, is a table containing our credit hour and course equivalencies for the CATS 15 credit hours per course system.

	Credit Hours per Course	Typical Full-time Course Load
Northern Irish Higher Education Institution	15	4 courses x 15 credit hours
UPEI	3	5 courses x 3 credit hours

## Other Pertinent Information

### *Years of Scholary and Year 12 Equivalent*

In order to be eligible for certification as a teacher in PEI you are required to have a minimum of 16 Years of Scholary, which includes completion of your Year 12 equivalent (also known as Grade 12 or High School equivalent). Generally, a Year of Scholary is earned for every year of formal education you have completed, beginning with Year 1 education at the elementary or primary school level.

Because Years of Scholary and Year 12 equivalence can vary so much between countries and even within them, the PEI Office of the Registrar calculates the Years of Scholary and Year 12 equivalence for each application on a case-by-case basis.

### ***Language Proficiency***

You do not need to provide satisfactory results on a language proficiency test if you have completed ***all of your*** post-secondary education in English or French.

In Northern Ireland, English is typically the language of instruction; hence, in most cases, applicants who have completed their post-secondary education in Northern Ireland do not require language proficiency testing. For more information on language proficiency, including acceptable tests and test scores, see our **Resource Guide: "Welcoming Internationally Educated Teachers to PEI."**

The **Resource Guide** is available online on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's website. See the following link:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/eecd/index.php3?number=1027691>