



An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge

What are your options?

Marino Institute of Education explains how to obtain the SCG/OCG language requirement

Application forms for An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge (SCG/OCG) are currently available at: www.ilrweb.ie. Teachers who hope to undertake An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge in April 2024, are required to apply by 31 October 2023.

This article aims to provide candidates with information and guidance on the application process, routes to completion, important dates and available supports.

Is An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge for you?

An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge (SCG/OCG) is for primary teachers who obtained their primary teaching qualifications outside of the State and who, upon registration with the Teaching Council, have an 'Irish Condition' attached to their registration. To satisfy that condition, candidates must undertake and complete successfully the Irish Language Requirement (An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge).

Routes to completion

Candidates may select from one of two routes to completion: An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (SCG) or Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (OCG). The SCG route involves aptitude tests and the OCG route involves a school-based adaptation period and assessments.

There are important differences between SCG and OCG. Prospective applicants are advised to carefully consult the *SCG Guide* and the *OCG Guide* available at: www.ilrweb.ie. A brief comparison of the main aspects of both SCG and OCG is presented in table 1.

Support materials

Support materials for OCG candidates are provided in *Sruth na Maoile: Ábhar Tacaíochta d'Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge* (Institiúid Oideachais Marino, 2009), and support materials for SCG candidates are provided in *Cóir Ghaoithe: Cúrsa Ullmhúcháin don Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge* (Institiúid Oideachais Marino, 2006, 2009). Both books may be used independently for self-directed learning or in a formal



course setting for tutor-directed learning. There is more information on available supports in tables 2, 3 and 4.

Courses

Courses are optional but it is highly recommended that a candidate would engage with a tutor or in a group course. Courses offer regular and consistent contact with tutors and other candidates. Courses normally begin in September or October. Enquire early with tutors/course providers to avoid disappointment. A list of tutors and course providers is available at: www.ilrweb.ie. All tutors have received training from Institiúid Oideachais Marino.

School visits

School visits to assess practical elements of the SCG and OCG will take place in the current academic year between 9 January 2024 and 9 February 2024. Candidates are asked to provide school details on application or by 30 November 2023. A supervisor will contact candidates in advance of each visit to agree and arrange a date and time. Full details on requirements for school visits are available in *Cóir Ghaoithe: Cúrsa Ullmhúcháin don Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge* and in *Sruth na Maoile: Ábhar Tacaíochta d'Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge*.

Examinations and assessments

The SCG examinations and the OCG Assessments will take place in the Marino Institute of Education on 2, 3 and 4 April 2024. Full schedule details are available at: www.ilrweb.ie. A supplemental examination will take place on 22 and 23 August 2024.

Registering for An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge

Candidates wishing to undertake An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge during the 2023/24 academic year must register with Oifig na gCáilíochtaí Gaeilge (contact details below) by 31 October 2023. Early registration is advised. Registration allows a candidate to enter for the examination/assessment, to obtain access to the syllabus, to attain digital copies of support materials and it will also allow a candidate to provide school details which will be used to coordinate school visits.

PEADAR MAC GIOLLA BHRÍGHDE agus MARIE WHELTON, Institiúid Oideachais Marino. Tuilleadh eolais faoin SCG agus OCG ó scginfo@mie.ie nó ocginfo@mie.ie nó www.ilrweb.ie

Table 1: An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge

	SCG – An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (aptitude tests)	OCG – Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (adaptation period and assessments)
Modules to be undertaken	Four independent examination modules. Candidates may take all modules or any combination of modules in any school year.	Four independent assessment modules. Candidates may take all modules or any combination of modules in any school year.
Module 1	Paper 1 (general language examination includes practical element – the teaching of Irish – examined in the classroom during one school visit).	Written assessment (general language assessment).
Module 2	Paper 2 (examination of prescribed prose and poetry includes practical element – language and culture project – examined in the classroom).	Aural assessment (multiple choice format).
Module 3	Aural examination (written answer format).	Oral Irish assessment (Picture discussion and general interview).
Module 4	Oral examination (reading of passage and general interview).	Assessment of the teaching of Irish – assessed in the classroom during two school visits.
Pass mark	40% in each examination module.	40% in each assessment module.
School visit	One school visit from 9 January – 9 February 2024, to examine practical elements of paper 1 and/or paper 2.	Two school visits from 9 January – 9 February 2024, for the assessment of the teaching of Irish in the classroom.
Classroom requirements	Candidates require access to a mainstream class to undertake the practical elements that form part of the paper 1 and paper 2 examinations.	Candidates must be working in a mainstream class-teacher capacity. Candidates must satisfy a specific adaptation period practice requirement. This involves a minimum of 120 school days teaching Irish as a mainstream class teacher.
Gaeltacht course	Three-week attendance at a recognised Gaeltacht course. It is recommended that candidates undertake the Gaeltacht course before presenting for the oral examination.	Three-week attendance at a recognised Gaeltacht course. It is recommended that candidates undertake the Gaeltacht course before presenting for the oral assessment.

Candidates are advised to consult the SCG and OCG Guide at www.ilrweb.ie before making a decision on which option to choose.

Table 2: Support materials for beginners hoping to undertake the SCG or OCG in the future

Course material	Level	Format availability
<i>Beatha teanga</i>	Beginner level	Beginner course in Irish for independent and/or tutor-directed learning. Text and audio are available for download from www.ilrweb.ie . Hard copy available for purchase.
<i>Ía Labhairt: Cúrsa Gaeilge Idirmheánach do Mhúinteoirí Bunscoile</i>	Intermediate level	Learning materials for intermediate level for independent and/or tutor-directed learning. Text and audio are available for download from www.ilrweb.ie . Hard copy available for purchase.

Table 3: Support materials for SCG candidates

Course material	Level	Format availability
<i>Cóir Ghaoithe: Cúrsa Ullmhúcháin don Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge</i>	Advanced level	Preparatory course for the SCG examinations. Coursebook and audio package. Digital copy provided to all candidates on registration for the SCG. Hardcopy available for purchase at www.ilrweb.ie
<i>Leoithne Ghaoithe: Leabhar Litríochta don Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge</i>	Advanced level	Prose and Poetry Anthology for the SCG Examinations. This Department of Education publication is provided in digital format to SCG candidates upon registration for the SCG examinations.

Table 4: Support materials for OCG candidates

Course material	Level	Format availability
<i>Sruth na Maoile: Ábhar Tacaíochta d'Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge</i>	Advanced level	Support material to prepare for OCG assessments. Coursebook and audio package. Digital copy provided to all candidates on registration for OCG. Hardcopy available for purchase at www.ilrweb.ie

Table 5: An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge – Féilire 2023/24

Application closing date	31 October 2023
Term 1 of tutor/centre courses	October – December 2023
Term 2 of tutor/centre courses	January – April 2024
Classroom assessments (OCG)/classroom examination (SCG)	9 January – 9 February 2024
SCG examinations and OCG assessments	2, 3 and 4 April 2024
Supplemental SCG examinations and OCG assessments	22 and 23 August 2024

See www.ilrweb.ie for the full calendar.