



TTCT 2026 (Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th July)

What is the TTCT Exam?

It's the Comhaltas' Teacher Training Course: A residential week-long programme which takes place at Cultúrlann Na hÉireann (Dublin) yearly

The course was created in 1980 by the great Micheal Ó hEidhin and is directed and tutored by some of the most respected traditional Irish music masters. The course includes monitored teaching practice sessions and theory classes. Within the practical teaching practice sessions, the ratio of assessors/tutors to candidate allows for very significant levels of staff support.

TTCT graduates have gone on to: Adjudicate at Fleadhanna Cheoil at County, Provincial and All- Ireland level, Tutor at Scoil Éigse and Perform on Comhaltas Tours.

It is recommended that applicants have teaching experience at the time of applying.

Amongst the subject areas included in this intensive course are:

- Irish traditional music and traditional music education and pedagogy
- Instrument methodology
- Musical literacy & analysis, Accompaniment, Slow Airs
- General principles of education, teaching and transmission
- Teaching & learning styles as well as class management & preparation
- Special Educational Needs and Irish Traditional Music
- SCT as a teaching/learning framework and slow airs as part of the traditional repository
- CCÉ Child Protection Guidelines
- Planning for the CCÉ Branch Music Education Programme & Core Branch Repertoire
- Teaching practice sessions which are mentored and comprise a significant part of the course

The TTCT course is ideal for:

- Musicians who, having mastered their instrument would like to continue their traditional music development.
- Musicians who want to develop their music-teaching skills.
- Musicians who would look like to study specific areas of traditional music, such as slow airs and accompaniment.
- An applicant who specialises in one of the following; fiddle/flute/whistle/concertina/button accordion/piano accordion/harp/banjo/uillean pipes.

The following applicant requirements have been specified by the TTCT:

- Traditional musicians with attested skills as a teacher
- Who display a competent standard of technique and style with a minimum of 100 hours of teaching experience (from beginners to advanced levels)
- Must be 20 years of age or over at the time of taking the course.

The teaching experience can include hours of mentored and supported teaching at Branch level and all other relevant formal and informal teaching contexts.

Queries in relation to eligibility are forwarded to the Director of the TTCT for consideration.

Successful applicants who have received a Distinction at Grade-8 of the SCT will not be required to Audition.

Course fee is €650, which includes onsite food and board for the full course week.

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE 2026 TTCT IS 31st January.

TEASTAS I TEAGASC CEOLTA TÍRE (TTCT)
2026 APPLICATION FORM – DEADLINE 31st January 2026
Eolas/ Contact: TTCT@Comhaltas.ie

Name: _____ Address: _____

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy): _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Teaching Experience:

- a) Number of years _____
- b) Hours per week _____
- c) Number of students _____
- d) Class sizes _____
- e) Levels of ability _____
(Beginners / Improvers / Advanced)

f) Teaching Centre:

- National School
- Secondary School
- House / Private Residence
- Comhaltas Branch Centre

g) On which instrument are you most competent? _____

h) Do you play another instrument? YES/NO _____

i) Teaching methods you employ?

- By ear
- Tonic solfa
- Staff notation
- Other methods

Details _____

j) Please give details of any other relevant activities that may support your application

SCT Qualification:

TTCT Preparatory Course Year of Completion:

k) Attach current C.V. with cover letter giving relevant information and references for verification regarding teaching hours.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____