

TRADITIONAL STUDENT AND TEACHER TITLES IN THE CÉILE DÉ COMMUNITY

Although the titles used in our tradition represent stages of study and are more or less sequential, most people will find the place that works for them in the early stages; for instance, whilst someone would not remain long-term in the community as an Irradair (one who is still searching for his path) many will feel comfortable as a Felmac forever.

1. **IRRADAIR - Seeker.** *Someone who has just approached the gates of the tradition and may remain or may decide to leave. In modern times this would be someone who is attending retreats, possibly regularly, without committing to Céile Dé group membership, or who is currently in the period of 12 months guest membership of a group.*
2. **FELMAC - Student.** *One who is studying and working within the tradition in a committed way, under the tutelage of an Oide or Fer/Ben Léigin. In modern terms this would be a group member, known these days as a Caimeach.*
3. **MUINNTEIREACH - Initiate.** *One who has been initiated into the community (muinntir) of an Anam Chara. As well as being part of a group, a muinntireach is also in a deeply committed one-to-one spiritual relationship with an Anam Chara.*
4. **FOIRFEACH - Elder.** *An experienced group member who is able to introduce new members to some of the basic teachings of the Tradition. Rather like an Academic big brother or sister in University, a foirfeach is there to help a newcomer settle in, get to 'know the ropes' and to answer any questions they might have.*
5. **OIDE - Teacher (the word also means "abode").** *Also spelt 'Àite', an Oide is someone who teaches the 'facts and philosophy' of the tradition. They do not teach all aspects of the tradition, only those subjects they have been trained and ordained to teach. Some oidean (plural) are trained and qualified to teach more subjects than others.*
6. **Fer Léiginn - Master teacher (Ben Léiginn, if a woman).** *A Fer or Ben Léiginn is rather like a Professor. As well as being ordained to teach every aspect of the tradition, a Fer or Ben Léiginn is also recognised as having attained a level of understanding that includes the ability to present the teachings from a place of what one might call prophetic inspiration. In the old days, s/he would also teach the oidean.*
7. **ANAM CHARA - Spiritual Guide (lit. Soul-friend)** *An Anam Chara is someone who, as well as being a Fer or Ben Léiginn, is primarily concerned with the Spiritual transformation of his/her Daltae (pupils). This often involves seeming to move beyond the teachings of the tradition... Paradoxes really begin here!*
8. **ÉRLAM - "Founder".** *One who has received a call, and is also blessed, by his/her Anam Chara to carry the tradition forward according to the vision s/he has been given; to leave the community to form a new one in a different geographical area, based on that vision and the interpretation of the teachings that spring from it. Currently our entire worldwide Céile Dé caim is one community under one Erlam. It may happen at some stage that someone who grew into Anam Chara-ship within our community feels called to begin a sister community another part of the world. With his/her Anam Chara's blessing and support, the new Erlam's adventure would begin!*