



Module 100800 - Routes into Teaching and the Initial Teacher Training (ITT)

Application process

Routes into Teaching

There are various routes into teaching and this session will take a look at the various routes that are available. Whether you have just finished an undergraduate course, come from overseas or just looking for a career change this session will outline possible routes into teaching so that you can begin the career of your dreams.

Routes available

- ▶ Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)
- ▶ The Schools Direct Programme
- ▶ School-centred initial teacher training (SCITT)
- ▶ Bachelor of Education (B Ed)
- ▶ BA/BSc with QTS
- ▶ Teach First

The Postgraduate Certificate in Education

- ▶ The Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) focuses on developing teaching skills.
- ▶ Consists of time spent in schools (placements) and time spent in university.
- ▶ Placements are usually contrasting to develop the whole trainee.
- ▶ Time spent within university is used to develop core teaching competencies and pedagogical skills.
- ▶ PGCE is more widely accepted worldwide.
- ▶ Lasts for one year full time or two years part-time.
- ▶ Once completed, opportunity to use PGCE module credits towards 'Masters Study'.

PGCE

- ▶ Pre-requisites include a relevant undergraduate degree and at least a Grade C in English and Maths at GCSE Level or equivalent.
- ▶ If you want to teach at the Primary level at least a GCSE Grade C or above is also required in GCSE Science.
- ▶ Tuition fees are payable.
- ▶ However, tuition fee loans, maintenance grants and bursaries are available to trainee teachers who are eligible and may need assistance.
- ▶ Applications are made through UCAS
- ▶ Applications open mid-September each year.
- ▶ Although applications are accepted from September to June, early applications are encouraged before places fill up.
- ▶ The current cost is £23 for applications to up to four institutions (to teach in Secondary Schools)



And up to 2 institutions to teach in Primary Schools.

- ▶ However for shortage subjects, the TDA will reimburse this fee.

The Schools Direct Programme

- ▶ The Schools Direct Programme allows trainees to obtain Qualified Teach Status (QTS) while training and working in a paid teacher role.
- ▶ Trainee teachers are employed by a school, and training is very much on the job.
- ▶ The school where the trainee is employed provides the majority of the training.
- ▶ Trainees can earn around £15,000 for their training year.
- ▶ The Schools Direct Programme lasts for one year full time.
- ▶ Once completed, opportunity to use study undertaken as part of GTP towards 'Masters study'.
- ▶ Similar to the PGCE Course, pre-requisites include a relevant undergraduate degree and at least a Grade C in English and Maths at GCSE Level or equivalent
- ▶ The requirement of at least a GCSE Grade C or above is required in GCSE Science for those who want to teach at the Primary level.
- ▶ 2:1 Minimum undergraduate degree, and 3 years experience in another career.
- ▶ Unlike the PGCE course, applications are made to schools/ institutions directly. Also applications are now made through the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA)
- ▶ More information on available placements is available on the UCAS website.

For more information access www.education.gov.uk - click on the link: Get Into Teaching then the link for School Direct.

School Centred Initial Teaching Training

- ▶ Training occurs on the job and is provided by the lead school and a consortium of neighbouring schools/ institutions.
- ▶ The course is for those who would prefer to spend more time in the classroom developing their skills than in university.
- ▶ SCITT lasts for one year full time.
- ▶ Once completed, opportunity to use study undertaken as part of SCITT towards 'Masters Study'.
- ▶ Similar to the other routes into teaching, pre-requisites include a relevant undergraduate degree and at least a Grade C in English and Maths at GCSE Level or equivalent.
- ▶ The requirement of at least a GCSE Grade C or above is required in GCSE Science for those who want to teach at the Primary level.
- ▶ Applications are made through UCAS.
- ▶ Tuition fees are payable.



- ▶ However, tuition fee loans, maintenance grants and bursaries are available to trainee teachers who are eligible and may need assistance.
- ▶ More information on available placements is available on the UCAS website

Undergraduate Routes into Teaching

- ▶ Courses include Bachelor of Education (B Ed), Bachelor of Arts with QTS (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BSc) with QTS.
- ▶ Courses are for those who have not studied at undergraduate level or who lack subject knowledge in the subject which they wish to teach.
- ▶ Courses range from three years full-time to six years.
- ▶ Pre-requisites include a minimum of two relevant A-Levels and at least a Grade C in English and Maths at GCSE Level or equivalent.
- ▶ If you want to teach at the Primary level at least a GCSE Grade C or above is also required in GCSE Science.
- ▶ Applications are made through Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).
- ▶ Tuition fees are payable.
- ▶ However, tuition fee loans, maintenance grants and bursaries are available to trainee teachers who are eligible and may need assistance.
- ▶ More information on available courses is available on the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS) website.

Teach First

Teach First started as an independent charity with the vision – No child's educational success should be limited by their socio-economic background. The Teach First Leadership Development Programme combines working/training while qualifying as a teacher. This is a paid post/training and there are no training fees. It takes 2 years to fully qualify. At present there are 7 regions in England that provide this Teacher Training route:

- East Midlands
- Kent and Medway
- London
- North East
- North West
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire and the Humber

Pre-requisites are a 2:1 degree, GCSE at grade c or above in English and Maths (or an equivalent qualification). You need flexibility to work anywhere in the 7 regions and a commitment for 2 years.

You can find more detailed information on www.teachfirst.org.uk

The application process for Teacher Training

On-line Based Systems

With the growing technological age, one thing that has now become standardised is the reliance on on-line based application processes for Teacher Training posts. For PGCE, SCITT positions this is conducted through the Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR). This is in contrast to the undergraduate courses that use the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

For the other routes into teaching, applications to direct institution/schools will be required. However, there is still likely to be some use of ICT in completing the application form.

When to apply?

- ▶ Early as possible
- ▶ GTTR opens Mid-September
- ▶ Primary and other popular courses begin to fill up and close to applicants in early December.

The Personal Statement

One thing that is common with all the different routes into teaching is that there is a standardised application form. All trainees will be expected to complete an application form. Perhaps the most important part of the application form is the personal statement. This is the part of the form that to Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Providers outlines the relevant skills, knowledge and experiences that the trainee possesses. It is also the part of the form that can get you in the 'must see' rather than the 'no' pile for trainee teacher interviews.

Each time you make a statement about your skills, personality, knowledge and abilities always back it up with an example. However it is good to be very concise in the Personal Statement, so keep it fairly brief but comprehensive. You can always expand upon an example in the Interview.

The Interview Process

Depending on the course chosen, the interview process could differ considerably at different training providers. Tasks could include:

- ▶ Presentations: Planned versus un-planned
- ▶ Group Interviews: Discussion of key pertinent topics within Education.
- ▶ Individual Interviews: The ITT Provider will want to know that you have got the experience, skills and knowledge to excel within the profession.
- ▶ A written piece: This task is set to assess your written communication and your ability to form an opinion.



- ▶ Practical scenarios: e.g. Five/ ten minute micro-teach.

Interview Questions

Although it is impossible to guess the exact questions you may face as part of your Initial Teacher Training Interview (ITT), you will do no harm in practicing responding to potential questions with a close friend/relative.

Not only will this help improve your confidence, self-esteem, communication and inter-personal skills, it will also enable you to start adding examples to your answers and responding in depth.

Remember that if you choose any examples from your Personal Statement to talk about in the Interview think about how you would extend that example including more detail. In the Interview you have more time to expand and show that you are good at rephrasing etc. Ideally, it is better to use other examples than the ones you have mentioned in the Personal Statement, when you are in the Interview.

Volunteer Placement

A voluntary placement is a short term placement within a school that can be positive for both the school and you as an individual. Placements can be insightful and provide you with real-life up-to-date experience of what life is like within a school. This is something that ITT Providers really value as it shows a good use of initiative and commitment to the profession from the prospective trainee.

Placements do not have to be full-time and any experience is better than none at all. Local schools are always more than willing to have volunteers, so setting up a placement should not be an issue.

Further advice on this and help with arranging placements can also be sought on the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) website.

Developing Your Potential Recruitment Top Tips

- ▶ Do your research!
- ▶ Arrange a voluntary placement to spend time within a Key Stage/Department that you wish to work in. This can be as little as an afternoon/morning each week.
- ▶ Ask a friend or relative to read through your personal statement.
- ▶ Apply early; popular courses get full very quickly.
- ▶ Prepare for your interview.



Useful websites

- ▶ PGCE and SCITT Course search <http://www.gttr.ac.uk/>
- ▶ Graduate Teacher Programme search engine <http://www.tda.gov.uk/Home/get-into-teaching/teacher-training-options/gtp/Search.aspx>

For more information regarding future changes to this programme

<http://www.education.gov.uk> go to their Get Into Teaching link then their School Direct link

- ▶ Teacher Training Fees and Funding <http://www.tda.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/funding/training-in-england/postgraduate-funding.aspx>
- ▶ UCAS <http://www.ucas.com/>
- ▶ TDA <http://www.tda.gov.uk/>

PGCE Application Guidance http://www.prospects.ac.uk/pgce_entry_requirements.htm

Re: information and resources, including help with interview/personal statement for teacher training/teaching posts <http://www.tes.co.uk> - you have to register to access some of these resources, however it is free to register.