

Dear 2018/2019 PGCE English Trainee

Congratulations on being offered a place on the PGCE English course at the University of Manchester.

The PGCE English Course at the University of Manchester prepares graduates to teach Secondary English, including the National Curriculum, Key Stage 3, GCSE, vocational qualifications and AS/A Level. Trainees are taught how to plan lessons and schemes of work and how to assess effectively, and they are encouraged to think about issues in English teaching, such as:

- How to teach and assess reading, speaking and listening and writing
- How to develop trainees' understanding of language
- How to teach classic literary texts, including Shakespeare
- How to use Drama, Media and ICT in English teaching

The course philosophy is to use collaborative learning and formative teaching to prepare trainees who can help their pupils to become independent thinkers and users of language.

We use a wide range of teaching methods, including seminars, group discussion, practical workshops, trainee-led presentations, peer review and trainee peer observations of lessons to enable trainees to participate actively in their own development as teachers.

Trainees are encouraged to use similarly active and well-principled approaches in their own classrooms.

Trainees are given a significant amount of responsibility to develop their own teaching style, set targets for themselves, take their own initiatives and evaluate their own work in planning, teaching and assessing.

The basis of the course is a partnership between the university department and schools and colleges drawn from a wide area around Greater Manchester.

Each partner school or college offers placements to an individual trainee or pair of trainees. The school normally takes an individual or pair of trainees in Term 1 and Term 3 and a different individual or pair in Term 2. Colleges offer placements for Term 2. In their placement schools and colleges trainees observe and teach classes under the guidance of experienced subject mentors.

School and college mentors receive initial and ongoing training as part of a development programme to support them in their supervision of trainees.

Practical teaching experience is provided through two main placements. The first of these takes place during Term 1 and will normally be in an 11-16 or 11-18 school. Depending on their professional needs, trainees will normally return to their first placement during the summer term. The second placement, which takes place during Term 2, is intended, as far as practicable, to provide a complementary environment to that of the first placement.

Trainee addresses and email addresses

To help tutors to allocate school placements, it would be useful if you could let John Keen know your likely Manchester address and postcode for the 2018_2019 course if you haven't already done so. If you have no idea yet where you'll be living then please email me to that effect.

Email address is
john.keen@manchester.ac.uk

If you have any other queries or issues please let me know.

Preparatory Reading – Texts for teaching

Tutors will give out a detailed reading list at the start of the course, Monday 10 September 2018, but please ensure that you have read the following by then:

'Holes' by Louis Sachar
'An Inspector Calls' by J. B. Priestley
'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding
'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' by R. L. Stevenson

These are commonly taught on the Key Stage 3 and the GCSE curriculum.

You should also get familiar with Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Macbeth' if you don't know them already.

PGCE Textbooks

You might also want to purchase the following recommended textbooks for use on the PGCE course. Davison & Daly is written specifically for training English teachers. Capel, Leask & Younie is aimed at training teachers generally irrespective of subject.

John Davison & Caroline Daly (2014) *Learning to Teach English in the Secondary School: A Companion to School Experience*, 4th Edition, Routledge

Susan Capel, Marilyn Leask & Sarah Younie (2016) *Learning to Teach in the Secondary School: A Companion to School Experience*, 7th Edition, Routledge

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On the first day of the university component of the course, you will be asked to complete a details form with information about your qualifications, experience and interests and a subject knowledge audit. You will be given handbooks, a full booklist and a course programme for Term 1, including details of the subject (English) course and the Educational and Professional Studies course.

Tutors would also like to take a photo – face only – of each trainee to facilitate learning of names.

Tutors are looking forward to meeting you all.

John Keen
PGCE English Tutor