

Secondary PGCE Programme FAQs 2020/21 intake

When does the course start and finish?

Monday 14th September, 2020. Information about accessing the first lecture and induction week sessions will be communicated to you nearer the time. The last day of the course is Friday 18th June, 2021.

How much teaching will be in the university campus?

Between September 14th and mid-October, subject specific sessions and Education and Professional Studies (EPS) will be delivered largely online in participative sessions, with a small number of recorded lectures. We are aiming to facilitate some face to face sessions for groups within subjects, on the university campus during the week beginning Monday 28th September and then more extensively later that term. This will be subject to Covid-19 guidance going forwards.

What does online learning consist of?

Online or distance learning is a combination of synchronous and asynchronous content. This means that there will be some live lectures, live online small group collaborative tutorials led by tutors, and trainee-led collaborative online group work through Zoom (synchronous content). There will also be some pre-recorded sessions, videos and presentations for trainees to access for subject knowledge development, follow-up independent learning tasks and self-audits (asynchronous content). In organising this, we will be drawing on experience of teaching online March-June 2020, building collaborative groups and a strong group identity. Peer teaching, learning and support remains fundamental to our pedagogy.

What will a day of online learning look like?

A typical day of online learning will include a timed programme of live online face-to-face teaching through lectures and seminars/tutorials, collaborative group work, follow-up tasks and independent learning. You will also have access to any pre-recorded materials, research papers and materials related to your subject and professional studies to assist with developing both your subject and pedagogical knowledge.

How can I prepare for online learning?

You will need access to a computer/tablet/smartphone with a camera (or webcam), a microphone (built-in or external) and speakers or headphones/earbuds. You will also need a relatively quiet space in which to work, especially if you are engaging with a synchronous lecture or collaborating with others in a tutorial.

What is required for the Primary School Placement (PSP)?

We have decided not to require trainees to go into primary schools this year, but instead to complete a virtual PSP which includes tasks relating to videos of primary schools and teaching.

What are the plans for school experience placement in the first term?

The first school placement is currently planned to run from Monday 28th September 2020 to Thurs 10th December 2020. However, it is likely that we will move this back to Monday 12th October. During this time you will be placed in a high school or college and work alongside school-based mentors and teams.

Why have I been asked to provide my term-time address?

We ask you to tell us where you are intending on living during term time so that we can allocate placements efficiently.

What can I expect regarding employment as an NQT at the end of the programme?

The Secondary programme has an excellent track record for employability, with a very large majority of trainees with posts by the end of the programme. Our preparation sessions for applications and interviews begin at the end of December and continue through presentations, tutor support, mock interviews and input from ex-trainees.