

PGCE Primary/Early Years

The Primary/Early Years PGCE course is a popular course with a proven track record and excellent employment rates. The 38 week course is divided between university-based study and time based in schools on teaching practice placement. The two course options are general Primary (5–11 yrs) or Early Years (3–7 yrs)

Entry Requirements

We look for graduates who have achieved their first degree, preferably at level 2.1 or above. Some National Curriculum content within the degree is desirable but not essential.

Applicants are required to have achieved GCSE grade C or above in English, Mathematics and Science.

It is also essential that applicants have spent some time in a primary/nursery school, working alongside and/or observing classroom teachers.

Course content

The course has two complementary parts and is designed and delivered in partnership with local schools. The university part of the course develops students' understanding of both the theoretical and the practical issues inherent in the classroom teaching of subjects and whole school issues within the primary/foundation curriculum, while school-based practice enables them to apply what they have learned, and what they continue to learn, in the classroom. The following areas are covered by all students:

- Professional studies
- English
- Maths
- Science
- Humanities
- Physical Education/Dance
- Music
- Art
- ICT

In addition The Early Years students focus on issues relating to the Foundation Stage.

School based placements enable students to put into practice what they have learned and to develop and refine their teaching skills. Students have the opportunity to work in three different schools and all students on the Primary course will have a placement in both Key Stage one and two. Students on the Early Years route will have placements both in Key Stage one and Foundation Stage. All Early Years students also have one placement in a Nursery setting.

Our partnership schools therefore vary in size, phase and context, giving students a

good opportunity to develop their teaching experience. Students are fully supported while on teaching practice by school mentors and by university tutors. By the end of the course students will have been given the necessary opportunities and support to reach the Standards for the Award of QTS, and will be well equipped to begin their careers as primary teachers.

Assessment

Satisfactory completion of the course requires students to pass their teaching practice, which is assessed and moderated towards the end of term 3 (School Placement 3) and to pass all the written requirements of the course. These comprise of five formal written assessed assignments and several school based tasks.

Satisfactory completion of the course requires all written work to achieve a Pass mark or above.

How to apply

Applications are made through the Graduate Teacher Training Registry. The closing date of applications is 1 December of the year prior to the year of entry. We recommend however that candidates apply early, as competition for places is fierce.

Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR)
Rosehill
New Barn Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 3LZ

Tel: 0870 1122205

www.gtr.ac.uk

Learn more

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This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be dropped and new ones offered in their place.

