Postgraduate Teacher Training - United Kingdom

This document gives a brief overview of applying for postgraduate teacher training courses in the UK Application for Initial Teacher Education or Training (ITET) programmes is through UCAS Teacher Training.

Details on the application system are available on the UCAS website: http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training/postgraduate-routes-teaching

How to get into teaching?

The most popular route into teaching remains the one year PGCE (Professional Graduate or Postgraduate Certificate of Education), but there are also school based routes for you to consider. Regardless of the path you choose, you’ll undertake a period of initial teacher training (ITT) before you obtain qualified teacher status (QTS).

Newly qualified teachers (NQTs) then have to complete a period of induction, which is the first year of employment as a teacher in a school.

When should you apply?

The application process opens on 01 November and you should apply as soon as possible after that to maximise getting the place you want. You can apply to three different providers at the same time (including primary and secondary) between 1 Nov and 01 Jan (Apply 1), but after 01 Jan you can only apply to one provider at a time (Apply 2). Each training provider, however, can decide when to open and close their programme for applications and many providers will fill their places well in advance of the start of the course.

Tips for completing the online form:

You’ll be asked for two references and you will need to obtain both references before you can submit your form. If you’re still at university, one reference must be someone from your university who can comment on your academic ability and potential.

Your personal statement:

Your personal statement is the heart of your application for teacher training. There’s a lot of help online for writing teaching personal statements and attending interviews for the PGCE.

A good starting point is ‘Applications Assistant’. This tool is designed to help create draft versions of your application. It features useful tips on what information to include: http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/apply-for-teacher-training/application-form-assistant.aspx
Have you got relevant work experience?

You’ll need to arrange some work experience in a school if you want to apply for teacher training. For PGCE courses, many institutions require you to have at least two week’s school based observation before your interview.

Professional Skills Test for trainee teachers

If you are thinking of applying for a teacher training course, you will need to take the numeracy and literacy skills tests as part of the application process, and ensure you have passed them both before the start of the course.

- You can find more information and some practice tests here: [http://www.education.gov.uk/sta/professional](http://www.education.gov.uk/sta/professional)

The interview

Your interviewers will be looking for evidence of: your understanding of the teacher’s role, your commitment to teaching; enthusiasm for your subject etc;


Funding

Funding & more information England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: [http://targetcourses.co.uk/study-areas/teaching/funding-teacher-training](http://targetcourses.co.uk/study-areas/teaching/funding-teacher-training)

Returning to Ireland after training in the UK?


Useful Links

- TARGET courses - Teaching: this covers Routes into Teaching, Getting a Teaching Job, Teaching in Scotland, Teaching in Wales, Teaching in Northern Ireland and Education Alternatives [http://targetcourses.co.uk/study-areas/teaching](http://targetcourses.co.uk/study-areas/teaching)
- Applying for Teacher Training (Prospects) [http://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying_for_teacher_training.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying_for_teacher_training.htm)