

Teesside University Initial Teacher Training (TUITT)

Information for Applicants

Postgraduate Certificate in Education – Primary with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

Thank you for applying for a place on our popular and competitive Initial Teacher Training (ITT) programme.

This leaflet will provide you with some key information about the interview process and course information. If you have any further questions or require additional information, please ask.

What happens during the interview?

Interviews will be challenging in order to assess whether we think you will be able to meet the required teacher standards, but we hope that the experience will also be enjoyable!

Please ensure you have a form of photographic ID available to show to the interview panel such as a valid passport or photographic driving licence, at the beginning of the interview.

The formal interview will involve a 15-minute presentation to the interview panel and a series of interview questions (this will take one hour in total).

For the presentation, you will carry out a **reading activity**. Bring along a book of your choice to form the basis of a lesson to a small group of pupils. You will present your book and lesson to the interview panel. You will need to demonstrate an understanding of how would you teach this and what might you need to consider in order to ensure that all pupils learn? This task is designed to assess your suitability to teach, verbal communication skills and understanding of the National Curriculum (KS1 and KS2). You can use power point or a different means of presentation to help you, but it must be visible in an online setting.

On the day of the formal interview, you will also receive an email with some activities to complete independently. If your interview is in the morning, you will receive this at approximately 9.00am and if it is in the afternoon, it will be around 1.00pm. However, we would advise that you check your email throughout the day as times may vary. The email will contain tasks and instructions as well as a deadline by which you need to return your completed tasks.

Please note that interviews will take place online during 2022/23.

What are the aims of the programme?

Our initial teacher training team have a strong, shared commitment to training teachers who will have the knowledge, skills, and expertise to enrich the lives of, and improve opportunities for, children and young people in our region. We aim to recruit enthusiastic, driven trainees whose inherent curiosity and creativity as life-long learners enables them to become strong, reflective teachers who strive to continually improve their practice.

The purpose of this programme is to train you to teach within primary schools (ages 5 – 11 years). Your learning will be personalised across professional skills, subject knowledge and pedagogy, research, and theory. You develop further by completing intensive teaching practices within school settings, allowing you to put your knowledge and understanding of education into practice.

Does this qualification provide Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)?

Yes, at the end of this course, if you are successful, you will be awarded QTS. QTS is a legal requirement to train in most schools in England. To find out more visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/qualified-teacher-status-qts>

When and how is the programme delivered?

This programme is delivered on a full-time or part-time basis. You will spend some time at the university following your academic modules and you will also complete two school-based placements. Throughout the course and your time based in schools, you will study at University alongside other PGCE students following the primary route. This approach provides rich opportunities for collaborative learning and the creation of professional networks.

What happens during teaching placements?

Teaching placement modules allow trainees to link theory to practice. Placement one is for 50 days and placement two is for 70 days; both will take place within a suitable Primary School

environment. On the full-time course, placement one takes place in semester one and placement two in the second semester. Whilst on the part-time course, there is one placement per year of the two-year course.

Throughout the placements trainees will be given tasks to accomplish which will link to specific aspects of the taught curriculum and throughout, clear parallels will be drawn between the placement experiences and experiences across other modules on the PGCE course. Whilst on placement, students are given increasing levels of responsibility and are expected to engage with all aspects of school life. Your placements will be arranged by the university.

Who will support me whilst I am placement?

During your placement, you will work with a Professional Mentor within the school and a Curriculum Mentor who will guide your practice in your curriculum area. You will be assigned a member of university staff as an ITT Tutor who will work closely with the course and placement teams to support your progress.

What will I study during the taught elements of the programme?

During semester one (or year one if part-time), you will focus on developing your knowledge of learning, explore a range of evidence-based teaching and assessment theories and strategies, hone your classroom management techniques, and understand more about the education sector. You will also focus on your subject knowledge and subject specific primary pedagogy whilst completing your first teaching practice. Semester two (or year two) provides you with opportunities to embed and refine your knowledge and skills; you will explore more advanced theory, enhancing your own evidence-based practice and primary subject expertise during your second teaching practice.

Is the programme demanding?

The primary PGCE is an intensive yet rewarding course combining academic study with work experience. This means that you will need the necessary organisational and time management skills to balance the academic and practice elements of the course throughout the year. Course staff will support you to learn how to manage the demands of a teaching career both during the course and beyond.

Good luck!