



# Teacher Training application process made simple

## How to apply

Applications to begin Initial Teacher Training for the next academic school year are made through the UCAS Teacher Training admissions process which acts as the clearing house for all routes into teacher training across the UK

- The first round of applications in UCAS opens in October for the following academic year
- Early application is advised in view of the demand for places on this scheme
- Please see individual subject information on the University partner websites for further advice on programme requirement
- For candidates who have graduated within five years of the proposed start date of the course, the principal referee **MUST** be an academic from the candidate's university.

## Generic selection criteria

We are looking for ambitious trainee teachers who are passionate and enthusiastic about their subject and have a desire to share that with young people of all abilities in the secondary age range.

There are generic selection criteria which apply to all subjects and some subjects also have additional subject-specific selection criteria. You are encouraged to visit the individual subject pages of the link University for subject specialist information. As you prepare your application for the School Direct course, we stress the need for you to visit a state secondary school in order that you become well informed about current practices. During the School Direct year you will be developing your skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to teaching. We look for some evidence of these at the selection stage through our generic selection criteria although these will be developed further throughout the course.

The generic selection criterion for all subjects is as follows:

- Good academic qualifications
- Good subject skills and knowledge in a relevant subject
- Good understanding of the place of the subject in the secondary school curriculum
- Up to date awareness of effective teaching and learning in the subject
- Interest in and awareness of what working with young people involves
- Commitment to teaching in the state sector



Strong skills, appropriate to teaching, in the following areas (in alphabetical order):

- Communication
- Critical analysis
- Inter-personal skills
- Honesty
- Organisation
- Reflection
- Resilience

The selection criteria will be assessed initially using evidence from the UCAS Teacher Training application system and, if called for interview, from the range of activities on the interview day. It is obviously advantageous if you can talk about meaningful experience of working with young people of this age. This does not need to be paid work but might be helping with a sport team, drama group or youth club.

## **Interviews**

It is the School Direct programme policy, in line with DfE (Department for Education) regulations, to interview all short-listed candidates before a place is offered. These interviews will take place in one of the NSTA Schools in person. We do not conduct telephone or Skype interviews. Staff from the link University and NSTA partners are involved in the recruitment of candidates including taking part in the interview process.

It will help you to read the Educational Press and to talk to teachers and those currently undertaking teacher training.

## **School visit**

The best preparation for interview is a visit to a school. If you are considering a career in teaching this is one of the first steps you should take. Even if you left school only recently you will be surprised at how different it is when seen from the perspective of the teacher.

You should try to secure some observation in a comprehensive school in the state sector and observe some lessons in your subject area with students in the 11-16 age range. The NSTA runs School Experience Days which will give you access to our partner schools at key times throughout the year. See the website for more information.

When you visit a school be sure to talk to teachers and students and participate in lessons if you are encouraged to do so. Try to evaluate what is being learned and the way in which the teacher encourages this learning.



You will be expected to discuss your observation visit at interview and to be able to go beyond a description of what you have seen by analysing the experience and showing an understanding of the deeper processes. It may well help to take notes and to refer to these at the interview.

## **Admission**

Prior to admission to the programme, all candidates are required by the DfE to have:

- at least GCSE or 'O' level at grade C/4 or an equivalent overseas qualification in English and Mathematics;
- a first degree (with a 2:2 or above) or an equivalent qualification in a subject relevant to the proposed main teaching subject.

We do not offer equivalence tests for the GCSE Mathematics and English requirements and we do not accept equivalence tests.

All students are required to undertake prescribed medical formalities before starting the School Direct course. A University Health Questionnaire and other required documentation are automatically sent to candidates holding an offer prior to the start of the programme.

Any offer is conditional upon the satisfactory receipt of an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service and medical clearance from the University partner. Details will be provided in your offer letter.

If you are offered a place you will be expected to take it up in the next academic year. All offers are subject to the verification of admission requirements.

## **Acceptance of offers**

If you are offered a place you will be asked to confirm online with the UCAS Teacher Training application System. You can hold only one place for your teacher training. The number of places is strictly limited. If you withdraw your acceptance, particularly after July, you will be denying an opportunity to other candidates.