

PGCE History

Southampton M-Level PGCE Course

The full-time Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) History is an intensive one year course. Two-thirds of your time will be spent in schools (min of 120 days) with the remainder spent at the University with a full programme of lectures, seminars and tutorials. You will spend time in real classrooms during your school experience. You will gradually be introduced into whole class teaching; initially it is likely that you will observe lessons and work with small groups of pupils. The expectation though is that you will quickly develop the skills and confidence to work with whole classes, with the support of your school-based mentor.

The School of Education has specifically developed additional post-graduate courses for teachers in their NQT year or early stages of teaching that will allow you to turn your PGCE assignment credits into a full Masters award, thus allowing you a head start on PGCE graduates from other institutions.

Overview

Our PGCE Secondary course will equip you with the necessary skills and knowledge to teach History across the secondary age range, including some opportunities to know more about 16-19 teaching. Candidates should note that the majority of schools in the Southampton partnership serve 11-6 cohorts and access to post-16 experience is limited to guest speakers, independent inquiries and observations in the main. Our PGCE trainees have successfully secured posts teaching across the 11-19 age range.

The course is designed to create history teachers that have a clear and well-founded philosophy towards the subject and how to teach history. We aim for reflective and dynamic practitioners willing to use a variety of teaching strategies to inspire all the youngsters in their classes. They will have a clear understanding of the problems pupils encounter in history, be prepared to find ways to overcome these difficulties and help pupils make progress.

There is a strong working relationship between the university and partner schools to develop your ability to teach history effectively. This involves not just understanding how to teach but why; the emphasis on the latter explores both why the subject matters as well as exploring the benefits of a range of teaching approaches. The course is very practical but underpinned by an emphasis on developing your own theoretical and philosophical position towards history teaching. It is a challenging course but highly effective. The course enjoys a very strong local and national reputation and has high completion and employment rates.

What Is Teaching Like?

Working with exciting, inquisitive young people who will provide you with new, challenging and enjoyable experiences every day of your working life. Beyond your work in the classroom, you'll find that teaching offers you many opportunities for training to develop and build a stimulating and successful career.

What Qualifications Do I Need To Apply?

Prospective candidates will have good knowledge of the subject, usually gained from first degree award. The normal expectation is that students will have at least 50% of their first degree in history, though related subjects such as archaeology, politics, sociology and so forth are seriously considered. Candidates also need to have GCSE's in Mathematics and English Language at grade C or above (or the equivalent qualifications).

You will be selected for interview based on the following basis:

1. your application shows good prior knowledge from study

AND/OR

2. the application shows good experience has been gained in a school or college AND/OR
3. the application is well written and persuasive.

The selection criteria applied is

- good subject knowledge and/or ability to learn further
- good knowledge of educational issues and a strong sense of the professional demands
- good interpersonal skills and an ability to communicate effectively (oral and written)

A good academic reference must also be provided from your most recent university or college or in some cases an employer (where you have been away from studying for some time).

How Can I Prepare For My Interview?

We would encourage all prospective students to spend time in a Secondary School and prior to interview candidates are asked to undertake at least 0.5 day of observation in Secondary History classrooms, to report in writing to tutors on day of interview.

At interview candidates are asked to:

- present a lesson outline on a Key Stage 3 National Curriculum topic (maximum 5 minutes)
- do a written task comparing two history textbooks
- have a 1:1 interview

What Can I Do With My M-Level Credits?

You can undertake study at an advanced level and deepen your knowledge in specific subject areas without the full workload of a Master's degree. Our unique system allows you to build, over a period of time, enough credits to proceed to a dissertation gaining a full Masters degree at your own pace.

Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) Skills Test

To obtain QTS, you must also pass the computer delivered TDA QTS skills tests in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT.

Visit www.tda.gov.uk/skillstests for more details.

How Will I Be Assessed?

You will be assessed formatively and summatively throughout the course to deepen your understanding of key issues in your area. There will also be school based work that will complement the university based work.

During your school placements there will be monitoring of your progress and weekly target setting exercises to work on areas for development. This process will involve both your own evaluation and reflection and that of your mentor. You are also required to submit two 6,000 word assignments. You will receive support in preparing yourself for both assignments. These assignments will contribute to the Masters level nature of the course, and if both assignments are considered to be at M level you will be awarded 60 credits towards a full M level degree in education. One assignment will focus on your own subject area and the other will focus on a Special Study topic.

Financial Support

There are sources of funding to help you support yourself during initial teacher training. Current details are available on the Teacher Development Agency website: www.tda.gov.uk

How Do I Apply?

All applications have to be made centrally through the Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR) and we are unable to provide application forms. The process starts in September each year and the closing date for applications will be posted on the GTTR website, usually during mid December.

Though there is no official closing date for applications, once the course has reached its quota of places we will have to close that particular course to further applications. We recommend that you apply as early as possible to stand the best chance of getting a place. You can visit their website at www.gttr.ac.uk or telephone them on 0870 1122 205.

Career Prospects

Teaching is a rewarding profession in more ways than one, offering a wide range of career prospects and development opportunities. The variety of potential career paths available can see you enjoy all kinds of experiences, roles and responsibilities.

You can develop by taking responsibility for a curriculum area or move to a whole school management position such as deputy head and eventually, head teacher - at which point you would have overall responsibility for the management of a school and the education its pupils receive. There are also opportunities for you to become advisors in Local Authorities, to government departments and other educational establishments.

Further Information

If you require general information on teaching, please contact the Training and Development Agency for Schools. They will be able to provide you with information on all the routes available into teaching, financial support, subject knowledge booster programmes, taster courses and all other matters. Visit their website at www.tda.gov.uk or telephone the Teaching Information Line on 0845 6000 991.

For more information about the SoE please contact us at 023 8059 3473 or email educate@soton.ac.uk.

www.southampton.ac.uk/education