

PGCE Primary

Southampton M-Level Pgce Course

The full-time Primary Postgraduate Certificate in Education is an intensive one year course (38 weeks in total) qualifying you to teach children aged 5 – 11 years. You will spend at least 18 weeks in school with the remainder spent at the University with a full programme of lectures, seminars and tutorials. During your school placements 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 class teacher mentor.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Education is accredited at Masters level and we expect most trainees to achieve this. You can convert your PGCE M-level credits into a full Masters award by further study and The School of Education has specifically developed post-graduate programmes for teachers in their NQT year or early stages of their teaching career that provide this opportunity. The PGCE at Southampton therefore gives you a head start on PGCE graduates from some other institutions. Feedback from previous trainees has been consistently good, and employment opportunities in the region are excellent. The Primary PGCE also offers a specialism in French for ten trainees each year.

Overview

The programme will suit people who aspire to become excellent primary teachers and want to gain an understanding of some of the theory underpinning effective teaching and learning in order to improve their practice.

We aim for reflective and dynamic practitioners who are committed to promoting the learning of all pupils in their classes and to help every child make progress in their early education. Planned and delivered in close collaboration with practising teachers in local primary schools, the primary course introduces you to the whole primary curriculum while providing a secure basis for you to learn how most effectively to plan, teach and assess subjects of the National Curriculum and to organise and manage a classroom.

The course aims to develop your subject knowledge through a range of teaching and learning approaches: workshops, seminars, lectures and demonstrations, fieldwork and micro-teaching activities, independent and group research, and through reading and writing activities. Recent trends in teaching and learning approaches are emphasised including, for example, the application of information technology, the National Strategies and Every Child Matters.

What Is Teaching Like?

Working with primary aged children 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?

Before joining the PGCE Course you need to have a good Honours degree. The minimum qualification considered is a 2.2 degree awarded by a British University or by the CNA, or an equivalent qualification. The majority of students accepted onto the course hold a 2.1 degree or above. More details can be found on our website at www.education.soton.ac.uk. Candidates also need to have GCSE's in Mathematics, English and Science at grade C or above (or the equivalent qualifications).

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?

If you have no relevant experience at all, your application is less likely to be considered favourably. We would encourage all prospective students to spend time in a Primary School so you are informed about the school environment, to confirm your own wish to teach and provide a basis for your own views.

At interview candidates are asked to:

1. present a current aspect of primary education to a small group and participate in a discussion about the presentations
2. undertake a variety of written task and tests
3. have a 1:1 interview

How Will I Be Assessed?

You will be assessed formatively and summatively throughout the course. There will also be school based work that will build on and/or extend university based work. During your school placements your progress will be monitored and weekly target setting will provide you with areas for further development. This process will involve both your own evaluation and reflection and that of your class teacher mentor. Summative assessment against the Standards for QTS is undertaken at the end of your final school based training. You are also required to submit two 6,000 word assignments. You will receive support in preparing yourself for both assignments. These assignments are assessed at Masters level 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.

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 Master's 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.

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 as well as the SoE website: www.education.soton.ac.uk/funding.

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 their 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.

In primary schools your career can develop by taking responsibility for a curriculum area and you can progress to Advanced Skills Teacher 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 School of Education Primary PGCE course please contact us at 023 8059 3473 or email us at educate@soton.ac.uk.

www.education.soton.ac.uk