

## Postgraduate Diploma Secondary Education (QTS) - Science: Physics

The **Science: Physics one-year PGDipEd (QTS) course** is structured to develop a deep understanding of the pedagogy and didactics of Physics, grounded in practical competence in classrooms. You will be challenged to develop informed and justified decisions about how you approach your teaching, in order to enable you to continue to develop over your career. You will be expected to develop these insights, although in less depth, across all facets of the sciences. This science: physics teacher training course attracts bursaries of up to £25,000 (depending on qualifications) in line with the government's priorities to increase the number of Physics teachers. For those who do not meet the entry requirements, we also offer a 16 week **Physics Subject Enhancement** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/edu/secondary-physics-ske.aspx>) course starting on 23rd February 2015 and 23rd March 2015.

We offer a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDipEd) rather than a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) at the University of Birmingham, as we believe we should provide student teachers with the highest level of teacher training possible. Both qualifications lead to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) but the PGDipEd also offers 120 credits at Master's level (out of 180), which makes it a highly rewarding course by combining both theory and practice. Once student teachers have completed their PGDipEd and successfully passed their induction year they may return to study with us on a part-time basis to complete their **Masters in Teaching Studies** (</schools/education/courses/ite/teaching-studies.aspx>).

If you are a graduate Engineer or Physicist who would prefer to teach Physics *with* Mathematics, new Postgraduate **Diploma Secondary Education (QTS) - Physics with Mathematics** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/edu/pgce-secondary-physics-mathematics.aspx>) course offers this opportunity.

**Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14** (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

### Course fact file

**Type of Course:** Taught

**UCAS code:** F3X1

**Study Options:** Full time

**Duration:** 36 weeks

**Start date:** September

### Contact

**Dr John Kirkman** ([http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/staff/kirkman\\_john.shtml](http://www.education.bham.ac.uk/staff/kirkman_john.shtml))

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**The School of Education** (</schools/education/index.aspx>)



### Details

The School of Education at the University of Birmingham has a long tradition of delivering teacher training courses. Its teaching has been recently graded as 'outstanding' for the third consecutive time by Ofsted inspectors which reaffirms the University's status as one of the UK's leading institutions for excellence in teacher training. The Ofsted report states that "such is the confidence of schools that trainees from the University of Birmingham are of high quality, employment rates for both primary and secondary phases exceed national averages by some margin. Trainees display excellent professional qualities: they are clear that good teaching leads to pupils who are interested in their work, enjoy learning and behave well."

There is currently high demand for teachers of Science who have expertise in Physics and there are substantial bursaries associated with training in the subject.

#### The Initial Teacher Education course

The Science: Physics Initial Teacher Education (ITE) course is 36 weeks long of which 24 weeks are spent on placement in a partnership school. There are five phases: Preparation (university and some school-based activities); School Placement 1 (seven week placement in school); Development (university and one week in your second school); School Placement 2 (12 week block placement and some university days); Completion (two further weeks in second school and two weeks in university).

Activity is central to learning how to teach physics and science as you need to learn how to act for yourself. This activity will include a good deal of exemplification of teaching, personal practice and collaborative hard thinking. Through this you will become better at planning lessons, assessing the success of your lessons and managing children within those lessons. You will also find out what children find hard about certain topics, how to vary your approach to minimise these difficulties, and so develop a range of teaching strategies, deploying many different technologies. As an essential part of this you will find yourself coming to grips with the national requirements and strategies, as well as engaging in the pleasure of doing some physics.

You may also be interested in our other two PGDipEd science courses:

- **Postgraduate Diploma Secondary Education (QTS) - Science: Chemistry** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/edu/pgce-secondary-science-chemistry.aspx>)
- **Postgraduate Diploma Secondary Education (QTS) - Science: Biology** (</postgraduate/courses/taught/edu/pgce-secondary-science-biology.aspx>)



Download a summary document for the **Postgraduate Diploma Secondary Education (QTS) - Science: Physics course (PDF, 64.5KB)** (</Documents/college-social-sciences/education/courses/ITE/PGDipEd-secondary-physics.pdf>)

## Physics Enhancement Course (Physics SKE)

Information on all our PGDipEd(QTS) secondary subjects may be found on the [Postgraduate Diploma Secondary Education \(QTS\) \(/postgraduate/courses/taught/edu/pgce-secondary.aspx\)](#) course page.

## Equal Opportunities

## Modules

All students have to complete six modules, five of which require a written assignments. In addition students will need to complete two teaching placements and meet the Teachers' Standards for the Award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

### School Studies 1:

### School Studies 2:

### School Studies 3:

### School Studies 4:

### Teaching Experience 1:

### Teaching Experience 2:

(10 credits Level M)

This module will explore your continuing reflective and analytical development as you review your teaching and learning. It is closely linked with the School Studies modules where the theoretical underpinning of the practice is discussed to enable you to analyse the ideas in practice.

The contact time will allow you to develop your theoretical framework and to develop pathways for future personal and professional development.

#### Aims

- plan for and teach whole classes and evaluate learning experiences (primary/secondary schools).
- demonstrate an understanding of the implications of practice to future development as a teacher.
- demonstrate reflective, analytical and evaluative skills

## Fees and funding

Fees for 2015–16 are: £9,000 (UK/EU full-time), £14,140 (overseas full-time). This course attracts Government [bursaries \(http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/funding/training-in-england/postgraduate-funding.aspx\)](#) of up to £25,000 (depending on qualifications) in line with the government's priorities to increase the number of Physics teachers. These awards are aimed at high-quality graduates with a 2:1 or first-class degree. Find out more at [http://www.iop.org/education/teach/itts/page\\_52632.html \(http://www.iop.org/education/teach/itts/page\\_52632.html\)](#)

Learn more about [fees and funding \(/students/fees/ite.aspx\)](#)

#### Scholarships and studentships

Home/EU students will be eligible to apply for statutory support from their relevant funding agency.

The [Institute of Physics \(http://www.iop.org/publications/iop/2014/file\\_64191.pdf\)](#) are awarding Teacher Training Scholarships to the most outstanding individuals, worth £25,000. There are a series of application deadlines throughout the year.

For further information contact the School directly or the Student Funding Office via [online enquiries \(http://www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk\)](#).

## Entry requirements

A degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject is required. Your honours degree should have significant physics content. If this is not the case then you might consider an [subject knowledge enhancement \(http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/subjects-age-groups/age-groups/teaching-secondary/boost-subject-knowledge.aspx?sc\\_lang=en-GB\)](#) course before starting at Birmingham. You will also need to demonstrate a breadth of commitment to sciences, to enable competence across the entire curriculum for 11-14 year old children.

All candidates also have to:

- have a GCSE in English (grade C or above) or an equivalent qualification; alternatively you might be advised to take an [Equivalency Test \(http://www.equivalencytesting.co.uk/\)](#)
- pass Professional Skills Tests in numeracy and literacy; please see the [Professional Skills Tests section \(http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/apply-for-teacher-training/skills-tests.aspx\)](#) of the Department for Education web site for more information on the core skills required by trainee teachers
- provide a satisfactory medical form
- complete an enhanced DBS/police check
- complete a Declaration of Suitability to Teach

- adhere to a Code of Professional Conduct and Fitness to Practise

## How to apply

Apply online through the **UCAS Teacher Training Portal (<http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training>)**. An early application gives more time for remediation if there are concerns about the quality of your candidature.

UCAS code: F3X1

### Related links

**[Post-Graduate Diploma in Education \(PGDipEd\) \(/schools/education/courses/ite/pgdiped.aspx\)](/schools/education/courses/ite/pgdiped.aspx)**

### Related news and events

**[University of Birmingham celebrates its School of Education's "outstanding" Ofsted report \(/news/latest/2013/06/28-Jun-University-of-Birmingham-celebrates-its-School-of-Educations-outstanding-Ofsted-report.aspx\)](/news/latest/2013/06/28-Jun-University-of-Birmingham-celebrates-its-School-of-Educations-outstanding-Ofsted-report.aspx)**

## Learning and teaching

### Course Structure

### Subject-based teaching methods

### School-based work

### Whole-school issues

### Tutoring and support

### Progression

### Assessment methods

All students have to complete six modules, five of which require a written assignment. In addition all students complete two teaching placements and have to meet the Teachers' Standards for the Award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

### Related staff

**[Dr John Kirkman \(/staff/profiles/education/kirkman-john.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/education/kirkman-john.aspx)**

## Employability

Extensive career support is available to and the majority of students obtain employment before they have completed their course. Many schools have a high regard for Birmingham Science: Physics PGDipEd (QTS) students and we have an excellent record of students gaining jobs at the end of the course. For 2013-2014 the employability rate was 100% and all graduates obtained employment in a teaching role. Many of our ex-students have been promoted to positions of responsibility, including Advanced Skills Teachers within the first 2 or 3 years.

### Comments from former students

Billy

*"In a constantly changing educational environment, my PGDipEd course has proved invaluable. In addition to enabling me to teach lessons to engage a wide range of students, I also completed the course with a solid foundation of pedagogy which enables me to adapt to the rapidly evolving educational landscape. The opportunity to explore wider educational issues with trainees and teachers from a broad background has also developed my interest and understanding of many of the issues within education. A strong esprit de corps along with personalised and accessible support made a tough and rigorous training year enjoyable. I strongly recommend the MEd too!"*

Ethan

*"I thought we were assessed very well, our school mentors were dedicated and were able to comment on us holistically - where colleagues from other universities had to spend half their time in paperwork."*

