TEACHER EDUCATION
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

INSPIRING LEARNING
TRANSFORMING LIVES
Welcome to the School of Education

Our Primary and Secondary initial teacher education pathways in Birmingham prepare top graduates for a career inspiring learning and transforming lives. Our highly acclaimed programmes have been rated ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted and offer the supportive professional and academic training needed to enable both recent graduates and career changers to succeed.

Ranked fifth in The Complete University Guide 2019, the School of Education has a long-standing reputation as an international centre of excellence for teaching and research. You will be taught in a school that is doing pioneering research in diverse specialisms from character education and race inequities, to innovative technology for children on the autism spectrum.

The School of Education is continually expanding and developing, with new provision for teacher training in Dubai from 2018. The School also benefits from multiple links with the University of Birmingham School, which opened in September 2015.
Consecutive inspections by Ofsted have graded our teacher training courses as ‘Outstanding’, making the University of Birmingham the destination of choice for initial teacher training.

**University Route (PGDipEd)**

Our highly acclaimed university route is delivered in partnership with selected schools in the region. We are one of the few universities that awards the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDipEd) which leads to QTS and offers the equivalent of 120 credits towards Masters study. For those who successfully complete their induction year, there is an opportunity to transfer credits to the MA Teaching Studies course, which is awarded on completion of a 60 credit dissertation.

**Secondary University Programmes, PGDipEd (QTS)**

**English**

UCAS code: G3X1

www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-english

- All key areas of teaching English will be covered, including speaking and listening, reading, writing, grammar, media and drama.
- A rigorous and challenging course that is excellent preparation for a successful career in teaching English.

**Mathematics**

UCAS code: G3X1

www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-mathematics

- There is not one way to teach Mathematics – you will develop as a reflective Mathematics teacher able to make informed choices.

- Strong links with subject associations such as the Geographical Association and RGS-IBIS, including recipients of the first RGS Enhancement (SKE) programme.
- The course helps develop a deep understanding of Mathematics at A level and beyond and includes some school experience. Following successful completion of the SKE course, students are automatically entitled to take up their place on the Mathematics PGDipEd programme at the University of Birmingham.

**Geography**

UCAS code: F8X1

www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-geography

- A strong focus on high-quality Geography education throughout all aspects of the course.

- You will work with a truly diverse range of partnership schools, fully embracing the personal geographies of both learners and teachers.

- You will be fully supported by school mentors and University tutors.

- You will complete a placement in both Key Stage One and Foundation stage.

- You will develop your understanding of classroom and whole-school issues, particularly relating to Foundation stage.

- You will be fully supported by school mentors and University tutors.

**Primary Mathematics Specialist**

UCAS code: X00G

www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-primary-maths

- You will be fully supported by school mentors and University tutors.

- You will complete a placement in both Key Stage One and Two, in a range of different schools.

**Primary University Programmes, PGDipEd (QTS)**

**Early Years (3–7 years)**

UCAS code: X121

www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-early-years

- You will complete a placement in both Key Stage One and Foundation stage.

- You will develop your understanding of classroom and whole-school issues, particularly relating to Foundation stage.

- You will be fully supported by school mentors and University tutors.

**Primary (5–11 years)**

UCAS code: X100

www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-primary

- You will develop your understanding of the classroom and whole-school issues.

- You will be fully supported by school mentors and University tutors.

- You will complete a placement in both Key Stage One and Two, in a range of different schools.

**Modern Languages: French, German and Spanish**

UCAS code: French (with Spanish or German): R1X1; German (with French or Spanish): R2X1; Spanish with French: R0X1

www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-languages

- You will develop your skills to become a well-informed, critical and adaptable Modern Languages teacher.

- Key themes include grammar teaching, integrating literature and cultural awareness.

- Graduates with at least 50% of their degree in their chosen language will be considered.

- Native speakers with alternative degree subjects will also be considered.

**Religious Education**

UCAS code: V1X1

www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-religious-education

- Strong focus on high-quality Religious Education, Religious Studies and Philosophy education; student teachers develop a deep understanding of the opportunities and complexities surrounding the teaching and learning of ‘religion’ in an education setting.

- Strong links with subject associations including NATRE, RE Council, HET, and RS Exam Boards. In addition, student teachers are part of a very strong regional network of RE teachers and mentors with many completing the MA Teaching Studies or gaining department leadership in the first five years of their careers.

- A strong emphasis on subject knowledge development and creative and experiential pedagogy. This supports student teachers from a variety of degree backgrounds to become outstanding, religiously literate practitioners.

**Science: Biology**

UCAS code: C1X1

www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-biology

- Develop skills, knowledge and pedagogy for Biology teaching throughout the course.

- Practice these attributes for teaching across the wider science curriculum.

- Become a reflective teacher practitioner through a variety of school-based and University activities where you can adapt your practice as necessary.

- Graduates with at least half of their degree content relevant to the national curriculum for science will be considered for the course, leading to student teachers with a range of backgrounds learning from one another.

**Science: Chemistry**

UCAS code: F1X1

www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-chemistry

- Develop skills, knowledge and pedagogy for Chemistry teaching throughout the course.

- Practice these attributes for teaching across the wider science curriculum.

- Become a reflective teacher practitioner through a variety of school-based and University activities so that you can adapt your practice as necessary.

- Graduates with at least half of their degree content relevant to the national curriculum for science will be considered for the course.

- Strong links with subject associations including NATRE, RE Council, HET, and RS Exam Boards. In addition, student teachers are part of a very strong regional network of RE teachers and mentors with many completing the MA Teaching Studies or gaining department leadership in the first five years of their careers.

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School Direct and Apprenticeship programmes

School Direct gives you the chance to combine a school-based year with our outstanding University programmes. You will feel part of the school team from day one and will learn from experienced colleagues in the school, while also benefiting from the training, support and expertise of University of Birmingham tutors.

Primary School Direct Programmes, PGCE (QTS)

We offer the following PGCE programmes for Primary on our School Direct route:
- Primary (5–11 years)
- Special Educational Needs

Secondary School Direct Programmes PGDipEd (QTS)

We offer the following PGDipEd programmes for Secondary Education on our School Direct route:
- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Modern Languages: French/German/Spanish
- Religious Education
- Science: Biology
- Science: Chemistry
- Science: Physics

Applicants apply directly to schools (via the UCAS Teacher Training portal). You will join a subject specialist PGDipEd group at the University of Birmingham whilst benefiting from the support of your SD lead school, and two schools placements in their partnership.

Applicants will be selected jointly by relevant staff from the University and the school. After successful completion of the course, the newly qualified teacher may well go on to work within the group of schools in which they were training.

For details of our School Direct partners, visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/school-direct

FIND OUT MORE schooldirect@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Primary and Secondary Apprenticeships

We offer primary and secondary apprenticeships with two partner schools. Apprentices are employees of the school but join our School Direct groups at University for high-quality, specialist programmes in their phase or subject. Apprentices apply directly to schools (via the UCAS Teacher Training portal).
Life as a student teacher

As a student teacher, you will be learning both through teaching at the University and from your experience in schools. A variety of teaching styles and approaches to learning are used, including University-based lectures, small group seminars and workshops, school-based work with pupils and teachers, and work undertaken individually or with other groups of students. The programme is designed to integrate practical experiences with opportunities for structured reflection using ideas from research.

To give you an idea of what life might be like as a PGDipEd student, here is an example of how your programme might be structured:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autumn term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observation in school</td>
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<td>1 week</td>
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<td>University-based training</td>
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<td>4 weeks</td>
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<td>Placement in school A</td>
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<td>1 week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placement in school A</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Spring term</th>
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<tr>
<td>University-based training</td>
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<td>4 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placement in school B</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>University-based training</td>
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<td>1 week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Placement in school B</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 weeks</td>
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<th>Summer term</th>
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<td>Placement in school B</td>
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<td>5 weeks</td>
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<td>Placement in school B</td>
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<td>2 weeks</td>
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<td>University-based training</td>
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<td>1 week</td>
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</tbody>
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*This example programme outline is a guide only. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the course outline and may differ depending on the subject pathway.*
Entry requirements and fees

**Postgraduate Diploma Primary Education: Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) University, School Direct and Apprenticeship programmes in one of the following subjects: Primary; Primary with Early Years; Primary Mathematics Specialist**

- Normally 2:1 or above (although decisions are made on a case by case basis and a 2:2 may be accepted) in any subject; plus English Language, Mathematics and Science at GCSE grade C or above, or the equivalent. You must pass Professional Skills Tests in numeracy and literacy; provide a satisfactory medical form; complete an enhanced DBS/police check; complete a Declaration of Suitability to Teach; and adhere to a Code of Professional Conduct and Fitness to Practise. For the Primary Mathematics specialism, candidates are also required to have a grade A or B in A level Mathematics (or equivalent).

- UK/EU fees*: £9,250 FT only
- International fees*: £16,290 FT only
- Duration: 38 weeks FT

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**Postgraduate Diploma Secondary Education: Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) University, School Direct and Apprenticeship programmes. in one of the following subjects: English; Geography; History; Mathematics; Modern Languages: French/German/Spanish; Physical Education; Religious Education; Science: Biology; Science: Chemistry; Science: Physics**

- Our entry requirements vary depending on the programme and route you are interested in applying to. For full requirements please visit our website [www.birmingham.ac.uk/ite](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/ite)

- UK/EU fees*: £9,250 FT only
- International fees*: £16,290 FT only
- Duration: 36 weeks FT

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*Tuition fees correct at time of going to print (September 2018). For the most up-to-date fees information visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgfees](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgfees)

Bursaries and funding

Tax-free funding is available to the best UK and EU graduates training in a range of subjects. You could get a generous bursary or be awarded a prestigious scholarship - which offers support and benefits throughout your time as a student teacher.

Your eligibility for financial support, and the amount you can expect to receive, will depend on the subject and phase in which you train and your degree classification, or highest relevant academic qualification.

For the most up-to-date information about the financial support available to you whilst you train to teach, please visit the Department for Education’s website: [www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-salary](http://www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-salary)
As a student teacher, you will want to learn about and practise the teaching of your own subject and/or age group. Our programmes offer you plenty of opportunity for this. Throughout your programme, we will help you explore important issues such as classroom management, equal opportunities, special educational needs and pastoral care.

We will help you acquire the knowledge and skills needed to meet the other varied demands that are part of life in school. You will also receive guidance on how to gain a teaching post and benefit from our links with schools across the region.

Our student teacher employment rates are consistently excellent and well above the national average, with many of our alumni progressing to leadership roles within a few years.

**Tutoring**
You will personally be allocated a University tutor who will guide and support you throughout your programme, along with a dedicated school mentor when on placement.

**Careers Network**
The University of Birmingham was named University of the Year for graduate employment in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016.

Our award-winning Careers Network team offers bespoke training and events to support you in pursuing exciting career opportunities. The team provides one-to-one careers guidance, CV and job application advice and careers workshops to help you develop your skills and stand out to employers.
‘The Postgraduate Diploma in Primary Education (PGDipEd General Primary) has enabled me to become a reflective and confident practitioner who has acquired a range of skills and strategies needed to teach within today’s profession. Alongside this, the unique nature of this course not only provided me with Qualified Teaching Status (QTS), but it also offered 120 Masters-level credits. My employment prospects following this course have improved notably and I am delighted to now be a Year 5 teacher.’

THOMAS TAYLOR
Year 5 Teacher
Smiths Wood Primary Academy

‘The School Direct (Special Educational Needs) course at the University of Birmingham has been perfect for me. After working in a school for one year after my undergraduate degree, the course appealed to me because of the “on the job” training element to it. Additionally, it was one of the only courses in the country which allowed me to complete the majority of my training in a SEN school. I cannot fault the course and would highly recommend it to anyone wishing to develop a teaching career within SEN.’

GEORGIA TREGLOWN
KS2 Class Teacher
Chadsgrove School

Be part of something special

Partnering

A very well-established partnership between the School of Education and local schools underpins the quality of our Initial Teacher Education programmes and supports the development of collaborative projects. During 2018–19 around 100 teachers will undertake small-scale research projects in their schools as part of their MA Teaching Studies; both part-time and full-time MA School Improvement and Educational Leadership students will engage in reflection and study based in their schools, and schools will contribute to shaping teacher education programmes through our Teacher Education Strategic Group and Steering Committees.

Global impact

The School of Education offers teacher education programmes at the University of Birmingham’s Dubai campus. Launching the campus in 2018, the University has become the first global top 100 and Russell Group university to establish a campus in this rapidly developing international education hub.

For more information, visit: www.birmingham.ac.uk/dubai/

University of Birmingham School

As the first secondary University Training School in the UK, the University of Birmingham School offers unique enhancement to all activity in the School of Education. As a location for both the sharing and generation of research, the University of Birmingham hosts a series of Rush Hour Research talks, designed to engage teachers in current research and enable networking with those working in education across the region.

The University of Birmingham School also provides opportunities for student teachers on the PGDipEd Secondary programme to develop their skills through school visits, contact with specialist teachers or micro-teaching experiences.

School of Education events

As a postgraduate student, you will be part of a lively School, which is actively engaged in the education sector. We hold regular events to which you will be invited. Previous speakers have included Michael Gove MP, Professor Dame Alison Peacock, Baroness Doreen Lawrence OBE and Baron David Blunkett.
‘The best thing about my time at the University of Birmingham was meeting friends I would have for life. The supportive and welcoming ethos of the University was felt throughout. The academic staff worked hard to ensure we were fully prepared for the life of a teacher and provided me with the right skills and experience to flourish in my career. I am now a Vice Principal for a primary school in Sutton Coldfield. I know my progression in my career is due to the fact I was so well prepared on my teacher training course at the University of Birmingham.’

KATRINA CROWLEY
Vice-Principal
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

‘I studied BSc Physics and Astrophysics at the University of Birmingham and then decided to go on to study MSc Meteorology and Climatology. After working as a private weather forecaster for two years, I returned to the University and did a Postgraduate Diploma in Education specialising in Secondary School Physics. I decided to study at the University of Birmingham because it has an exceptional reputation. The facilities are outstanding and I felt really well supported throughout my studies here.’

CHANDNI PARMAR
Physics Teacher
Kings Norton Girls’ School and Sixth Form

Our campus
The University campus offers a peaceful and tranquil haven right on the doorstep of a bustling city. Striking architecture and 250 acres of parkland make for a stunning setting for our campus, which boasts a huge range of facilities. You’ll find bars, shops, travel agents, banks as well as our state-of-the-art library, an art gallery, museum and concert hall all on site.

We are in the process of developing our Green Heart, which will be a 12 acre landscaped area at the heart of our historic campus, with spaces for a range of activities including ceremonial occasions, public performances, local markets and an outdoor cinema.

Due for completion in 2019, it will feature and showcase some of the University’s extensive range of cultural collections and be a place for meeting and relaxing all year round.

Over £2 million has been invested in the School of Education to develop its facilities, with a new student space for studying and socialising opened in 2017 and a dedicated staff and student cafe offering refreshments and a convenient place to meet or relax throughout the day.

Student life
There are plenty of opportunities for fun and socialising on campus. The University and the Guild of Students host fantastic events and there are over 300 groups and clubs that students can join. We are one of the UK’s leading sporting universities and offer great opportunities for all to get involved, whether you are an absolute beginner or a world-class athlete.

Our city
Famous for its historic, industrial past, Birmingham is now a centre of arts and culture, commerce and entertainment, with a vibrant and diverse community. When you come here you’ll find it’s not just a place to study, it’s also the perfect place to begin your career and set down the foundations for a successful future.

Birmingham offers retail therapy, from the Bullring and Grand Central to Digbeth’s vintage shops; and sports teams such as Aston Villa FC, Birmingham City FC and Moseley Rugby Club. We are also home to the world-famous Edgbaston Cricket Ground.

Music fans can enjoy the latest bands at the O2 Institute and first-class performances at Symphony Hall. Foodies will find street food at Digbeth Dining Club, fine dining at one of our six Michelin-starred restaurants, as well as curry in the legendary Balti Triangle, a massive array of independent cafes and restaurants, and karaoke bars in Chinatown. All of this is just a seven-minute train journey from our very own University station!

Studying in Birmingham
One of Europe’s most exciting destinations, Birmingham is brimming with life and culture, making it a wonderful place to live, study and work.

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To train to teach with us, you will need to submit an application via the UCAS Teacher Training portal. Here are the different stages of the application process and what you can do to prepare:

**Pre-application**

**Visit us**
Consider visiting us to meet our tutors and ask any questions about our programmes. To register for our next event, visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/education-events](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/education-events)

**Arrange some work experience**
You may find it beneficial to arrange some work experience in a school to enable you to make an informed decision about a career in teaching.

**Applying to us**

**Register with UCAS**
Sign up to UCAS Teacher Training to receive updates on any important information. You can apply as soon as the UCAS portal opens (usually in October). Places for teacher training at the University of Birmingham go fast, so we recommend that you apply as early as possible.

**Submit your application**
Create your application through UCAS Teacher Training. For your application you will need to write a personal statement to make your application stand out and explain what skills you will bring to teaching. You will also need to provide two references.

For tips on what to include in your application, visit: [www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/how-to-apply/apply](http://www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/how-to-apply/apply)

**The professional skills tests**

**Pass the tests**
If you receive an offer for training to teach with us, it will be a requirement that you pass the professional skills tests in numeracy and literacy before you begin your teacher training. You can register and take these as soon as you have applied.

To book your test and find out how to prepare, visit: [https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/how-to-apply/passing-the-skills-tests](https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/how-to-apply/passing-the-skills-tests)

**The interview**

**Prepare for your interview**
If your application is successful, you will be invited to an interview. In your invitation you will be told what you should prepare and what to expect on the day.