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 sixth in Europe and 25th in the world by the 2017 QS World Rankings, 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 which 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 opening in Dubai in 2018. The School benefits from multiple links with the University of Birmingham School, which opened in September 2015.
Becoming a teacher

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 partnerships 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, at Masters level. 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.

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
- 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
- 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

Primary Mathematics Specialist
UCAS code: X00G
www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-primary-maths
- You will be prepared for a specialist role teaching mainly Mathematics and for ‘championing’ Mathematics in a more generalist role at the start of your career
- Develop understanding of issues inherent in the teaching of Mathematics and whole school issues
- Develop your expertise within a primary context
- Evidence of strong Mathematics knowledge is required – normally a grade A or B in Mathematics A level

Secondary University Programmes, PGDipEd (QTS)

English
UCAS code: Q3X1
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 which is excellent preparation for a successful career in teaching English
- Interactive teaching sessions which encourage you to reflect and analyse
- At least half your degree should be in English or an English-related subject. Graduates with degrees in subjects such as Creative Writing or Journalism are also invited to apply.

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
- Strong links with subject associations such as the Geographical Association and RGS-IBG, including recipients of the first RGS Scholarships in 2017–18
- A very strong regional network of Geography teachers and mentors, with many past students completing the MA Teaching Studies, becoming Geography mentors, or going on to subject department leadership in the first five years of their careers

History
UCAS code: V1X1
www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-history
The course is committed to developing History which is:
- Inclusive; you will explore how factors such as social class, gender, ethnicity and sexuality can impact on individuals, communities and societies both past and present.
- Challenging; the course encourages both teachers and pupils to explore misconceptions about the past and present.
- Empowering; you will explore concepts of identity; personal, local, national and global through the analysis of past and present day events, trends and individuals. You will explore how progressive change can take place in a society and the role of the citizen in enabling such change to take place.

Mathematics
UCAS code: G1X1
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
- Transform pupils’ experiences of learning Mathematics in a wide range of partner schools within easy reach of the University
- Many excellent teachers without a Mathematics degree come via our highly regarded Subject Knowledge Enhancement route

‘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.’

THE 2013 OFSTED REPORT
Modern Languages: French, German and Spanish
UCAS code: French (alone or with Spanish or German): R1X1; German (alone or with French or Spanish): R2X1; Spanish with French: RX41
www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-languages
- 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.
- The course has an outstanding employment record, with the course laying the foundations for students to develop their expertise not only as a teacher, but also as a Modern Languages specialist, and as a postgraduate student.

Physical Education
UCAS code: X9C6
www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-physical-education
- You will cultivate a deep understanding of issues and complexities which surround the teaching and learning of Physical Education.
- University sessions will explore different aspects of teaching and will involve a balance of theoretical and practical activities.
- You spend some time on residential activities and where possible take part in nationally recognised teaching and leading courses through our course enhancement programme.

Physics with Mathematics
UCAS code: F3GX
www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-physics-with-maths
- Applicants with Physics or Engineering or related degrees are invited to apply.
- This route provides the opportunity to become a specialist physics teacher but also to gain some knowledge and experience of teaching mathematics. It gives the opportunity to explore links between the two subjects.
- Become a reflective teacher practitioner who is able to adapt their practice.

Religious Education
UCAS code: V6X1
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: Chemistry
UCAS code: F1X1
www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-chemistry
- Develop skills, knowledge and pedagogy for Chemistry teaching throughout the course
- Practise 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 Chemistry in the national curriculum for science will be considered for the course

Science: Physics
UCAS code: F3X1
www.birmingham.ac.uk/teach-physics
- Develop a deep understanding of what is likely to lead to pupils learning, including the use of practical scientific enquiry
- Learn about Physics explanations and how to adapt for a wide range of different learners
- Graduates with Physics, Engineering or related degrees can be considered for the programme
- Become a reflective teacher practitioner who is able to adapt their practice

Mathematics Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE)
www.birmingham.ac.uk/secondary-mathematics-ske
- The SKE course is a full-time, campus-based conversion course for those who wish to teach Mathematics but have a degree with relatively little Mathematics content.
- 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 eligible to take up their place on the Mathematics PDipEd programme at the University of Birmingham.
School Direct

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

We offer the PGCE for Primary on our School Direct route. Applicants apply directly to schools (via the UCAS Teacher Training portal). We will work in partnership with the school to manage your training programme towards gaining a PGCE which offers 60 credits.

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, although there is no absolute guarantee of employment.

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

Here are the School Direct pathways we offer:

Primary School Direct Programmes, PGCE (QTS)

- Primary (5–11 years)
- Special Educational Needs

FIND OUT MORE
schooldirect@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Life as a student teacher

As a student teacher, you will be learning both through teaching at the University and in school placements. 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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Autumn term</strong></td>
<td>Observation in school 1 week, University-based training 4 weeks, Placement in school A 1 week, University-based training 1 week, Placement in school A 7 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring term</strong></td>
<td>University-based training 4 weeks, Placement in school B 2 weeks, University-based training 1 week, Placement in school B 6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer term</strong></td>
<td>Placement in school B 5 weeks, University-based training 1 week, Placement in school B 2 weeks, University-based training 1 week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.
I initially applied to do the Postgraduate Diploma in Education: Mathematics but I was advised to do the Subject Knowledge Enhancement course which I’m really grateful that I did. We had four weeks in schools so when I joined the PGDipEd I felt experienced even in that short amount of time. I feel like my A level knowledge was a lot more secure from the SKE. After about one year of teaching, I was asked to be the mentor for students in my school for the University of Birmingham. It’s a wonderful thing as I trained here myself and I’ve been mentoring student teachers for over ten years. I would highly recommend anybody coming here as you get a lot of support from the University.

SAM BULLIVANT
Lead Practitioner for Initial Teacher Training, ITT Senior Mentor and Mathematics Teacher
Woodrush Teaching School Alliance

‘Seeing the transformation of pupils developing and maturing into happy, confident and caring individuals is the best thing about teaching. Without it coming across as a cliché, I went into teaching to change lives. Teachers change lives, teachers have changed my life by believing in me. For me, teachers have the most important role in modern society; that motivates me every day.’

WAQAR YOUSAF
Biology Teacher
University of Birmingham School
‘I chose to study at the University of Birmingham not only because of its excellent reputation but also due to its unique and exciting partnership with Chadsgrove Teaching School. This partnership enabled me to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in primary teaching but with a focus on Special Educational Needs (SEN). I knew this was the field in which I wished to work and being able to do two of my three placements in a special school was a wonderful opportunity to gain the skills and experience I needed to be able to work in a special school for my NQT year and beyond.’

AMY HOCKEY
KS2 Class Teacher, Chadsgrove School

‘The PGDipEd (QTS) course at the University of Birmingham is a comprehensive programme. The guest speakers were inspiring, the course lecturers were dedicated and the mentors I had in schools were very helpful. There was a good balance between time spent on school placements and the more academic segments of the course, spent at the University. This balance meant that I could reflect on, and discuss my teaching, which allowed me to learn and improve, step by step.’

ALEXANDER YOUNG
German and Russian Teacher
Wellington College
Entry requirements and fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes</th>
<th>Entry requirements</th>
<th>UK/EU fees*</th>
<th>International fees*</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma Primary Education: Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in one of the following subjects: Primary; Primary with Early Years; Primary Mathematics Specialist</td>
<td>2:1 Honours degree or above in any subject; plus English Language, Mathematics and Science at GCSE grade C or above, or the equivalent; plus at least five days’ teaching experience in a mainstream primary school. You must also 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).</td>
<td>£9,250 FT only</td>
<td>£16,290 FT only</td>
<td>38 weeks FT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Diploma Secondary Education: Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in one of the following subjects: English; Geography; History; Mathematics; Modern Languages: French/German/Spanish; Physical Education; Physics with Mathematics; Religious Education; Science: Biology; Science: Chemistry; Science: Physics</td>
<td>2:2 Honours degree or above relevant to the area you wish to teach; plus English Language and Mathematics at GCSE grade C or above, or the equivalent. You must also 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.</td>
<td>£9,250 FT only</td>
<td>£16,290 FT only</td>
<td>36 weeks FT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate Primary Education: Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) (School Direct) in Primary or Primary with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)</td>
<td>2:1 Honours degree or above in any subject; plus English Language, Mathematics and Science at GCSE grade C or above, or the equivalent; plus at least five days’ teaching experience in a mainstream primary school. You must also 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.</td>
<td>£9,250 FT only</td>
<td>£16,290 FT only</td>
<td>38 weeks FT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Tuition fees correct at time of going to print (September 2017). 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 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 provide one-to-one careers guidance, CV and job application advice and careers workshops to help you develop your skills and stand out to employers.

FIND OUT MORE
To find out more, please visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/careers](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/careers)
'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 an 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

Partnership
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 2017–18 over 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; schools will contribute to shaping teacher education programmes through our Teacher Education Strategic Group and Steering Committees and we will engage with schools in numerous projects linking researchers and practitioners.

Global impact
The School of Education will be offering teacher education programmes at the University of Birmingham’s Dubai campus. In launching the campus, the University will 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.

For example, student teachers in History may find themselves preparing and running tutorials for A level History students on the Russian revolution, whilst Geography student teachers might accompany a group on a field trip.

School of Education events
As an undergraduate 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.
‘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

‘The best thing about my time at 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
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.

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 an art gallery, museum and concert hall all on site.

We are continually expanding and improving all the time with a brand new 50-metre swimming pool, which opened in 2017. In the past year, we have also opened a new state-of-the-art library.

Over £2 million is being invested in the School of Education to develop its facilities, with a new student space for studying and socialising opening in 2017.

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 150 groups and clubs that students can join. We 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!
What to do next

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**
Work experience is an important part of your application and will help you make an informed decision about starting your 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)

**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.

**The interview**

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)