**Please see the ‘Interview Days – general instructions for candidates’ document for details on the structure of the morning part of the interview day.**

## PGCE Secondary Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics & Biology with Psychology) Information for Interviewees

We look forward to meeting you for your interview. This document provides some information about the interview process and what you will be asked to do.

As part of the interview, applicants will be asked to write on a given topic.

Additionally, applicants will be interviewed on an individual basis by a member of the subject team with local teachers sometimes assisting at interviews.

Applicants will be asked to do a short presentation during the interview.

Formal interview:

In the one-to-one interview (approximately 20 minutes), we will be looking to explore your reasons for wanting to teach science, your subject and curriculum knowledge and the relevance of your previous experience. In your preparation for the interview, you should take careful note of the selection criteria which are listed below.

Selection criteria:

The qualities we are looking for, and which the selection procedure is designed to explore, are:

* a passion for teaching science in an engaging way to young people.
* good subject knowledge, especially in your specialist science subject.
* enthusiasm for all aspects of science.
* professional commitment and suitability for teaching - this could be demonstrated through gaining experience in a school setting, working with young people and/or showing awareness of current educational issues.
* ability to communicate clearly and confidently using good spoken and written English.
* ability to think creatively and to reflect critically on experience and on new ideas.
* evidence of leadership skills or the capacity to develop these skills.
* evidence of empathy with young people and a desire to make a significant difference in young people’s lives.
* good interpersonal skills.

Before the Interview:  
1. You should **read the PGCE Secondary Science Subject Guide** from the current academic year to get a sense of how the course is structured. This is available from <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/teachertraining/apply/howtoapply/pgceinterviews/>.

2. **Prepare your presentation** (see Interview Days – general instructions for candidates document for more details)

3. Look at the National Curriculum for Science (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-science-programmes-of-study>) and at the GCSE specifications for each science subject (e.g. at the AQA site <http://www.aqa.org.uk/>). However, we do not expect you to have detailed knowledge of the curriculum at this stage**. During the interview we will ask subject knowledge questions on the following areas that you may wish to revise in advance:**

**Chemistry – Atomic Structure**

**Biology – The circulatory system**

**Physics – Current, potential difference and resistance**

**Psychology (for Biology with Psychology applicants only) - Memory**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us ([d.moore@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:d.moore@exeter.ac.uk)). We look forward to meeting you.

Darren Moore – Secondary PGCE Science Admissions Tutor

Luke Graham – Secondary PGCE Science Course Leader