



**UNIVERSITY OF EXETER
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
PRIMARY PGCE – GENERAL INFORMATION**

The University of Exeter has an excellent record in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and is graded 'outstanding' by Ofsted for our primary provision. **The training is delivered within a strong school-university partnership informed by Government policy and up-to-date research in primary education.** The primary PGCE course has developed effective working relationships with some 150 schools across the SW region. Your school-based work (teaching practice) will be based in two of these schools.

The Primary PGCE year starts in September. We provide a small number of tasks to be completed prior to starting the course so that you are ready to go on day one.

You will spend most of the autumn term following the University-led taught course at the St Luke's campus where you will follow an intensive course including the following modules:

- ☐ Primary Curriculum Theory, Research and Practice
- ☐ Primary Education Theory, Research and Practice
- ☐ Primary Professional Learning in Schools
- ☐ Primary Specialism (choice of modules available)

You should expect to attend the campus for taught sessions and lectures every day, Monday to Friday during this term (including the half term week).

During the term, you will visit your first placement school for five weeks, during which time the school will organise induction activities to introduce you to its staff, systems and procedures. You will have the opportunity to observe teaching and undertake some short episodes of teaching during these weeks as part of your 'Beginning Practice' phase of training. You will be assigned to a Mentor who will take an overview of your professional development as a teacher and support you through the placement. You will also have themed days of Intensive Training and Practice (ITAP) during this term which will be a mix of university-led and school-based practice.

From January, you will spend almost all your time in school. You will start the spring term in your first placement school and move to your second placement school towards the end of the term where a programme of induction activities will be arranged to familiarise you with new and different school contexts. **You'll then stay in your second placement school during the summer term. During your school-based work, you will connect back with the University on several occasions for seminar days at the St Luke's campus.** These seminar days are an opportunity for our tutors to support your work in schools with further theoretical input and also give you the opportunity to reflect on and share good practice with other trainees, as well as re-establishing social contacts and activities. The seminar days are a valuable and important part of the PGCE course.

Our partnerships with schools provide exceptional opportunities for School Based Work and **all of our partner schools have specially trained mentors who will assist you in learning to teach.** These colleagues are essential to your development as a teacher and will help you to develop both classroom skills and reflective and evaluative strategies. Together with schools, we will provide you with opportunities, training and support.

Every effort is made to take into consideration the personal circumstances and preferences of trainees when allocating their placements.

Primary trainees are generally placed within commuting distance of Exeter but can be placed further afield in Dorset, Somerset, Cornwall and London (school 2 only) if they request this as we have partnerships with schools in all these areas.

Trainees generally:

- live in Exeter for the Autumn term, and then move or commute to the area their placements will be in for the Spring and Summer terms
or
- commute to Exeter from their home for the Autumn term and then have placements nearer to their home location in the Spring and Summer terms.

If you already live in an area within our partnership, and especially if you have family commitments such as children at school, we will do our best to arrange school placements for you that are as convenient as possible. However, we cannot guarantee that your school placements will be close to where you live so it is essential that you do not enter into an annual accommodation contract before you start the course.

The Exeter Model of ITE is progressive and developmental, supported at all stages by University and school tutors. When you start work in school, you will at first observe lessons and perhaps participate in a teaching support role, depending on the activities included in each lesson. You will soon start to teach discrete parts of lessons, known as 'episodes', (for example, introducing a poem to the class). You will be responsible for the planning and delivery of these episodes after discussion and with the support of your Mentor. **Gradually, as your confidence in class builds, you will teach longer episodes, working towards taking whole lessons when you and your Mentor agree that it is appropriate for you and the pupils you teach.** Your 'contact time' with classes in school is arranged so that you can prepare thoroughly for all episodes and lessons that you teach, and also have time for detailed critical reflection on your teaching performance, and how this is related to your pupils' learning. In addition, there will be set tasks and two Masters-level University assignments to complete.

You will be encouraged to reflect on your progress and set your own targets for development during your training. Your progress will be formally discussed with you on a weekly basis as well as in a 'professional conversation' each term to review your progress and to set targets for your further professional development as a teacher.

Contact with the university is maintained during your time in school by **visits from a University Lead Mentor** who will monitor and support your progress in school over the year. Normally you will get two visits: one in the spring term and one in the summer term. Extra visits may be arranged if necessary to support your training.

Your schools will provide progress reports at the end of each 'phase' of training within the Exeter Model of Teacher Education. During your final placement, your placement school will provide a summative, school-based work assessment that contributes to the university recommendation for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) at the end of the course. The university will make this recommendation to the Department for Education when you have obtained a satisfactory final progress report on your school-based work, as well as achieving a pass mark or better for your two university assignments (submitted beginning of January and end of April). These assignments are assessed at level 7, Masters level. **Successful completion of the Primary PGCE programme means that you will be awarded a Post Graduate Certificate in Education with 60 Masters' level credits.**

Exeter St Luke's Campus:

The campus at St Luke's provides a very pleasant backdrop with a distinctive collegiate atmosphere for the University element of your training. A range of facilities are available, including an extensive educational library where there is a large school-based work section which contains materials directly relevant to school age children. There is also an extensive digital library to enable you to study while on school-based work. The campus offers study spaces, computer facilities, a sports hall with swimming pool, and a campus café. Additional facilities are available on the Streatham campus, a short bus ride away across the city. The St Luke's campus is shared with the Department of Sport and Health Sciences and the University of Exeter Medical School.

Car parking on the campus is restricted. Most of the available space is regulated by official permits, for which a charge is made, and availability of car parking permits for students/trainees is limited. **Whilst on the PGCE course, you are advised to make travel arrangements that do not involve bringing a car into the city.** A park-and-ride scheme is operated from car parks situated on some of the city approach roads and we strongly encourage you to make use of such schemes if you travel in from outlying areas. The bus station is conveniently situated for the St Luke's campus, being about ten minutes' walk away along the Heavitree Road. There is provision on the St Luke's campus to securely lock bikes under shelter.



If you have any queries or concerns about the PGCE Primary course, please bring them with you to interview, where you will be given a chance to raise any questions about the course content and organisation or the facilities available.

We hope you are successful in your application.