



UNIVERSITY OF EXETER
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY PGCE – GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of Exeter has an excellent record in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) for our secondary provision. **The training is delivered within a strong school-university partnership, is fully compliant with the latest government policies and is informed by up-to-date research in secondary education.** The secondary 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 Secondary 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 taught course where you will follow an intensive course including the following modules:

- ❑ Secondary Subject Knowledge, Pedagogy, Research and Practice
- ❑ Secondary Education Theory, Research and Practice
- ❑ Secondary Professional Learning in Schools

You should expect to be on campus for taught sessions and lectures on 2 days per week during this term (including the half-term week) as well undertaking online, directed and guided independent study when not attending campus-based sessions.

Whilst you will spend most of the autumn term following the University-led taught course at the St Luke's Campus, you will spend four weeks (5 days per week) during the second half of the term in your first placement school. The school will organise induction activities to introduce you to its staff, systems and procedures. You will be assigned a Mentor who will take an overview of your professional development as a teacher and support you through your placement. You will also have some themed Intensive Training and Practice (ITAP) days during this term which will be a mix of university-led and school-based practice in your placement school.

From January, you will spend almost all your time in school. Your first placement will last until close to the end of the spring term, when you will transfer to your second placement school. Again, a brief programme of activities will be arranged to familiarise you with a new and different school context but you will be expected to be teaching the classes on your timetable rapidly, as your confidence in teaching will now be much higher. You will return to your second school after the Easter break to complete your training. **During your school-based work, you will connect back with the University for seminar days,** spaced at roughly monthly intervals. These seminar days are an opportunity for university 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. Our schools are situated throughout the South West region, from Penzance in the far west to Poole and Bournemouth in the east and across Devon and Somerset.

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

Secondary 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 2 days per week over 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 participate in a teaching support role, depending on the activities included in each lesson. You will rapidly start to teach discrete parts of lessons, known as 'episodes', (for example, an English trainee might introduce 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, the subject-specialist teacher in your department who is responsible for your day-to-day support and supervision) and the class teacher (who may be the same person). **Gradually, as your confidence in class builds, you will teach longer episodes, working towards taking whole lessons as and 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, undertake appropriate assessment as you begin to take responsibility for your classes, 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 'supervisory conference' three times per 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 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). **Successful completion of the Secondary PGCE programme means that you will be awarded a Post Graduate Certificate in Education with 60 masters' level credits.**

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 with a well-stocked journals section, computer suites, sports hall with swimming pool, and cafe. Additional facilities are available on the main university campus, a short bus ride away across town. The St Luke's campus is shared with the Department for Sport and Health Science and with the Medical School.

Car parking on the campus is restricted and Exeter City Council will not allow extension of parking areas on environmental grounds. 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 five 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 Secondary PGCE course at Exeter, please bring them with you to interview when you will be given a chance to raise any issues about the course content and organisation or the facilities available.

