



UCAS Teacher Training – course entry profile PGCE Secondary Education with QTS (Biology)

Why train with us?

The New Collaborative Teaching School Alliance (NCTSA) is a recently designated Teaching School based in the Yorkshire region. We are an alliance of over 20 good and outstanding providers producing excellent outcomes for our learners. Our lead school, New College Pontefract has been rated as 'outstanding in all areas' by Ofsted and has been officially recognised as the most successful college in the north of England.

Our PGCE is provided through Huddersfield University who have a proven track record in developing great teachers since 1947. The University has been recognised as a gold-rated University by the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

We will combine the latest innovative teaching practice and excellent placement opportunities to help ensure our graduates are equipped with the most relevant and up-to-date skills needed within the workplace.

A large part of your learning will take place whilst on placement. To give you the best possible experience, we have developed close links with successful schools and colleges to help you put theory into practice. When you are not out on placement you will be studying in teaching rooms containing the latest audio-visual kit and whiteboards, and open access computing suites.

We will provide excellent levels of personal support by assigning you a subject specialist and/or personal tutor throughout your studies.

About this training programme

If you've got an undergraduate degree and are passionate about training to become a secondary school science teacher, then studying our PGCE Secondary Education with QTS (Science with Biology) could be for you. You'll develop your subject specialist knowledge alongside hands-on classroom experience.

A significant amount of your learning will take place whilst on placement within one of our partnership schools. You'll benefit from being able to observe experienced teachers, gain practical hands-on experience and mentoring to help you develop into an outstanding and successful teacher. Successful completion of your PGCE course prepares you to start your first teaching year (NQT year) within a secondary school setting.

Course Structure

The course is a one year postgraduate certificate in secondary education. The programme is divided into two main themes:

Initial Professional Development

You'll have the opportunity to explore creative ways to interpret your knowledge into a language a child can understand. We help prepare you for the classroom, allowing you to develop your own thinking, teaching and subject knowledge base to a level which you can trial in your placements.

Themes include educational psychology, how young people learn, behaviour management, assessment, inclusion, creative and innovative teaching methods and designing learning. You research theories of child development, gain a greater understanding of current professional issues in secondary schools and develop your own educational philosophy

Biology Specialist Subject Pedagogy

You'll have the opportunity to develop your subject teaching in a stimulating way, using different methodologies and new technologies to inspire and engage young people. We'll help develop your understanding of the science and biology curriculum, you'll examine the best practice of biology teaching and develop a range of teaching strategies to challenge and inform your students.

Placements

A key element of your studies and learning takes place whilst you're on placement. You'll undertake a number of compulsory placements as part of your programme, in fact you'll spend around 120 days in at least two partner schools.

You'll experience the wider role of a teacher in secondary education. You'll have the support of both subject and professional mentors in schools who will help you to develop your practice through observations, planning meetings, weekly tutorials, reports and in-depth lesson evaluations. Your university tutor will visit you in school to guide, support and evaluate your progress. Our partnership schools are situated across the local area including Wakefield, Selby and Doncaster and we'll endeavour to place you in a convenient location.

Assessment

You'll learn in small, friendly and supportive groups, designed to give you the confidence to succeed. Course tutors are very experienced and supportive and you'll have a personal tutor to support you through your studies. Teaching is through workshops, tutorials and lectures, some with guest speakers, and through group work with other teacher trainees from a variety of subject specialisms as well as specialist subject groups.

During the course you'll study four modules:

- Curriculum Development
Inclusion, Equality and Diversity
Specialist Subject Development
Developing Critical Professional Practice

Three of the PGCE modules are at Masters level and afterwards you will have the opportunity to continue your studies further to complete a Masters in Education, supporting your NQT year and your early professional development.

Assessment is typically through the completion of a range of classroom activities, written assignments, reports, personal subject audits and the development of portfolios of evidence. There are no formal examinations and the assignments are carefully designed to help you to develop your teaching practice further.

Entry Requirements

Minimum degree required: Lower Second

Degree

An Honours degree in science at a minimum of 2:2 or above.

A Levels

Two Science A level passes at a minimum of grade C or equivalent, with one subject being Biology.

GCSEs

A GCSE (or equivalent) grade C or above in Mathematics and English Language.

Experience

We would like you to have as much experience as possible in a secondary school in preparation for the course. We will ask you to provide a school experience report completed by a teacher in a school where you have completed at least 5 days experience.

Other

Disclosure and Barring Service and Medical

Offers will be subject to satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service enhanced disclosure check and trainees must not previously have been barred from teaching or working with children. We also ask you to complete a conduct a health declaration to ensure that you have the health and physical capacity to teach.

Skills Tests

You must have passed the skills tests in literacy and numeracy before you start the course and we ask you to register for the tests before interview.

Other

You must demonstrate that they can read effectively and are able to communicate clearly and accurately in Standard English.

You should provide two references. If you are about to graduate or have graduated within the past three years, one referee should be a university or college lecturer who can comment on your academic ability.

These are the usual entry requirements. We do however encourage those with different or older qualifications to apply as we welcome people from different backgrounds. All conditions must be met by 31 August 2021.

What We Are Looking For

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- Enthusiasm and a genuine desire to inspire young people
- A commitment to helping every child to make the most of their talents
- Excellent communication and inter-personal skills
- Resilience and the willingness to receive and act on advice
- A realistic understanding of the role of the secondary school teacher
- The ability to manage time effectively
- Evidence of self-motivation in personal learning

How We Select Our Trainees

You will be shortlisted for interview based on your application. The interview process typically lasts for half a day. We advise that you spend some time prior to the interview in a secondary school to give you a greater insight into your career choice. The following selection procedures are designed to assess your suitability for teaching:

- an interview with a member of the course team which includes an explanation of a concept in your specialist subject
- a group task with a mentor from the secondary partnership which includes a presentation about your school experience and a discussion designed to investigate your understanding of teaching and resilience
- a pre-prepared written response to a statement designed to assess your academic ability and your understanding of your subject in the curriculum
- a literacy test to evaluate your ability to communicate clearly and accurately in English
- a subject knowledge test based on aspects of the subject curriculum in school