

ADMISSION TO THE PGCE COURSES

Entry Requirements

School Experience:

The course prepares trainees who want to teach in the British state sector and we therefore expect that applicants for a PGCE course will have undertaken at least 10 days work experience or observation in the year before they apply for the PGCE in a mainstream British state school, working alongside children within the appropriate age ranges for their course choice. Applicants will be expected to be able to draw on this experience in their application. It is recommended that at least 5 days should be undertaken in a block placement and if possible gain experience in more than one school.

Although all experience with children is advantageous (eg. scouts, summer camp etc), applicants without relevant school experience are unlikely to be successful. Classroom teaching is different from any other role with young people you may have experienced. Working at a youth club, summer camp or helping on a school trip will tell you whether you like working with that age group and but not whether you will enjoy teaching. Teaching English as a Foreign Language will give you some teaching skills but won't prepare you for a class of 30 in a state comprehensive school. School classroom observation is important for you to decide if teaching is really for you and is the only real way to find that out. We want to know that you have a good understanding of the role and the challenges it entails.

Make the most of your classroom experience

Talk to the teachers in the staff room about the profession, how they feel about it, how do government initiatives really affect them, what do they think about SATS, what they particularly like about teaching, anything that could give you an insight into the role. Being able to refer in detail about being inspired by a particular teacher, or to give an example of a moment when you helped a child understand something complex through a creative approach, in an application or interview will make you a far more convincing and committed applicant.

Keep a diary of your classroom experience:

- Did you observe any particularly good/bad teaching practices
- How did you feel
- How did the teachers prepare for class
- What was the structure of lessons
- What was inspirational to you and confirmed your wish to teach
- How did the teacher deal with challenging situations when they arose