

POSTGRADUATE STUDY



# Initial Teacher Education: PGCE & School Direct

**US**  
UNIVERSITY  
OF SUSSEX

# Education at Sussex

Pioneers of School-based teacher training.  
Ranked 18th in the UK for Education

(The Times, The Sunday Times & The Good University Guide 2022).

## INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION

Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses at Sussex are managed by The Sussex Consortium for Teacher Education and Research, a partnership initiated over 45 years ago between schools and the University in which all are equal partners in teacher training.

This long-established relationship ensures that our trainees receive unparalleled support – both from their placement schools where experienced teachers provide models of excellent practice, and from their university tutors.

## TRAINING ROUTES

The Sussex Partnership offers three routes into primary and secondary teaching for graduates:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)
- School Direct (Training) Programme
- School Direct (Salaried) Programme

Our courses are offered as full-time September to June or part-time over two years and lead to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and a 90 Credit (M Level) PGCE qualification.

A clear and inclusive academic progression route enables trainees to progress to our part-time Education MA with a third of the credits required, and is specifically designed to continue support for Newly Qualified Teachers in their early years of teaching and beyond.

Sussex ITE courses combine pedagogy, theory and practice - our PGCE and School Direct trainees all study together and are offered the same practical and academic training opportunities, assessment and support. Trainee teachers have access to the University's excellent library, computing facilities and Student Support Services.

Registration with the University's computing service enables access to all campus computers, email and internet facilities.

## SUBJECTS & PHASES

### PRIMARY

Primary KS1 & 2 (age range 5-11) with enhancement opportunities in Early Years.

**SECONDARY** - Key Stages 3 and 4 (age range 11-16) with enhancement opportunities at post-16:

Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, English, Drama, English and Drama, Latin & Classics, English and Media Studies, Computing & Business, Music, Modern Foreign Languages, Art & Design, History, Geography, Design Technology and Religious Education.

Secondary Key Stages 4 and 5 (age range 14-19):

Media Studies, Psychology, Business Studies and Social Science.

## TEACHING & LEARNING

On all three routes, you will train in a partnership school Monday-Thursday and attend taught sessions on the university campus every Friday.

The Sussex programme encourages you to critically reflect on approaches to learning and behaviour. You will benefit from the expertise of our innovative leading education teaching faculty and in-house experts from the wider university community.

Widely recognised education consultants and trainers and excellent teachers from our partnership schools are seconded to the University in most subject areas and contribute additional currency to teaching and trainee support.

Get more information about teacher training at Sussex at our Virtual Teaching Information Event web page, incl subject specific videos:  
[www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite/meetus/teaching-info-event](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite/meetus/teaching-info-event)

## EDUCATION

### SCHOOL PLACEMENTS

You will train in two different schools during your course.

Supported by an experienced subject specialist as a Mentor, you will gradually take an increased share of the normal duties of a professional teacher - both inside and outside the classroom as your confidence and competence grow.

For both School Direct routes (Training and Salaried), you apply directly to a 'Lead school' with trainee places available in your subject specialism and undergo a joint selection process by the school and the University. If accepted, you will train at the school for the majority of the year. The School Direct (Salaried) route suits career changers wishing to earn while they train - including those with significant prior school experience. As a Salaried trainee, your introduction to teaching is less gradual than for PGCE and School Direct (Training) trainees as the school funds your course fee and part of your salary.

University Subject Tutors will place PGCE students in schools deemed most suited to their training needs.

### OPTIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY STRAND

We offer an innovative specialist training strand in Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) for trainees interested in SEN teaching and learning. This includes enhanced training opportunities and a bespoke placement with local special school partners. This strand would suit any PGCE or School Direct trainee keen to work in a SEND environment.



### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A relevant first degree 2:2 or above from a UK Higher Education institution (or equivalent) and enthusiasm for your chosen subject and phase
- English and Maths GCSE at Grade 4 or above (since 2017) - or equivalent. For training in Primary you must also have a GCSE grade C or above in a science subject to our GCSE requirement
- Effective verbal and written communication skills
- Enthusiasm for working with children or young people
- You must not be excluded from working with children as a result of a criminal record or any other reason
- You should have an awareness of current educational developments, initiative, flexibility and responsiveness to change, a sense of responsibility, strong organisational skills and the ability to work as part of a team
- School Direct (Salaried) trainees should also have at least 3 years previous work experience in any field before undertaking the course
- If English is not your first language, IELTS Level 7.0 is required with at least 6.5 in every section.

*NOTE: The selection process includes an interview, selection exercises - such as a presentation and/or teaching task - satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and Occupational Health Clearance. Apply for a place on a PGCE or School Direct course at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) - use the DfE apply link for applications*

See more details of entry requirements/expectations for individual subjects at [www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite)

**Apply for a place on a PGCE or School Direct course at Sussex via <https://www.ucas.com>**

### SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE ENHANCEMENT

If you wish to teach Secondary Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science, Latin & Classics, Modern Foreign Languages, Religious Education, Design Technology, English (incl for English & Drama and English & Media), Religious Education or Computing & Business and hold a related but not a specialist degree in the subject, we offer free/fully-funded pre-training Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses. These courses are carefully designed to give you the depth, breadth and confidence to teach your subject specialism at secondary level. For more details, visit: [www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite/ske](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite/ske)

## EDUCATION

# Course structure: Taught sessions

AUTUMN TERM

SPRING TERM

SUMMER TERM

Professional Practice 1

Applying Professional Knowledge

Professional Practice 2

Reflecting on Professional Knowledge

*“Having Sussex trainees in our schools develops everyone’s practice and enriches provision for all our children. The University develops their trainees to become such reflective practitioners, with children at the heart of everything they do. We also end up with a great pool of trainee teachers from which to recruit!”*

Helen Horsley, Benfield Primary School



These modules are running in the academic year 2023-24. We also plan to offer them in future academic years. They may become unavailable due to staff availability, student demand or updates to our curriculum. We'll make sure to let our applicants know of such changes to modules at the earliest opportunity.