School Direct Partnerships with the University of Sussex 2016/17: Information for School Partners

Working together to recruit and train the next generation of outstanding new teachers

School of Education and Social Work
Department of Education
Essex House
University of Sussex
Brighton
BN1 9QQ
www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ite

For more information on developing a School Direct partnership with the University of Sussex, contact
Sally Dudley
School Direct Leader
T 07884 181318
E s.e.dudley@sussex.ac.uk

At TESLA Teaching School Alliance, we have found that the quality of Initial Teacher Training provided by our partners at the University of Sussex to be consistently strong. The ITT team are friendly, helpful and quick to respond to any queries and have embraced the changes to school-led ITT provision enabling us to work together in a true partnership.
Rebecca Clark, Director of TESLA Teaching School Alliance & Assistant Headteacher, Bohunt School, Hampshire

We have worked closely with Sussex since School Direct was first set up. When there are issues, there is always someone available to answer queries and resolve issues. We have employed some very successful teachers trained through School Direct and Sussex.
Mark Ellis, Professional Tutor, Eastbourne Area School Direct Alliance

This is our third year of running School Direct and the support and guidance offered by Sussex University continues to be invaluable. Whether it be a reply to an email or at the end of the phone, they are always available to answer a question or provide advice.
Rebecca Lynch, Professional Tutor, Heathfield Community College

We have worked closely with Sussex since School Direct was first set up. When there are issues, there is always someone available to answer queries and resolve issues. We have employed some very successful teachers trained through School Direct and Sussex.
Mark Ellis, Professional Tutor, Eastbourne Area School Direct Alliance

Bensham Manor School has been working with the University of Sussex for over two years on School Direct. They have been supportive and helpful in all aspects of the programme, and are always available on the end of the phone. I have recommended them to my Teaching School Alliance and commend them wholeheartedly.
Jason Hughes, Deputy Headteacher, Bensham Manor School

The efficient interview process enables us full involvement, and the allocation of places to the very best calibre of trainees. The support the trainees receive from the University helps them to gain the best experience they can in school, with training opportunities often extended to school staff. The partnership we have with Sussex is one that we value highly.
Claire Rivers, Primary Headteacher, Mark’s Teaching Alliance, East Sussex

University of Sussex
Education
What is School Direct?

School Direct is a school-led initial teacher training programme enabling groups of schools - supported by a ‘lead school’ and working with a university partner - to influence and contribute to every aspect of teacher education.

Working in partnership with the University of Sussex, you will be able to:

- recruit your own high quality candidates to suit the needs of your school
- develop your own training programme, complimented by weekly university-based training, assessment and support
- consider your own new teachers for employment where a suitable NQT post is available.

Our offer

Initial Teacher Education (ITE) at Sussex comprises three teacher training routes: School Direct, School Direct (Salaried) and the core PGCE. All lead to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), the academic award of PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education) and benefit from the combination of a school-based programme four days a week and dedicated time for training and reflection at the University every Friday.

The course structure, assessment, paperwork and training and support package is the same for all routes, simplifying your work with trainees in school.

We offer three School Direct models:

1. School Direct (Tuition Fee)
   - Candidates selected jointly by school and university are funded by the trainee’s tuition fee.
   - Schools receive a payment of £2,750* per trainee.

2. School Direct (Salaried)
   - Candidates selected jointly by school and university are employed as unqualified teachers. Schools receive a grant of £14,250,000 (depending on subject) for eligible subjects and pay a tuition fee of £4,250* to the University.

3. School Direct (Self-funded)
   - A private arrangement of ‘School Direct (Salaried)’ with no grant and both the trainee’s salary and tuition fee funded by the employing school.

* Financial arrangements are reviewed annually

Our experience

The University of Sussex is a successful and popular leader of teacher education. The Department of Education at Sussex has a long history of innovation, pioneering school-based teacher training over 40 years ago. Since then, we have developed a strong reputation for high quality training. Sussex was one of the first Higher Education Institutions to work alongside local schools on the School Direct pilot in 2012/13.

Our Consortium of Schools currently includes over 18 different School Direct partnerships across the South East, supporting a large cohort of trainee teachers in over 250 Primary, Secondary, Special, Sixth Form, Further Education and independent schools. Our partnership also benefits from the close support of several strong Teaching Alliances and SCITTs (School-Centred Initial Teacher Training).

We are committed to working with schools to shape the direction of teacher education and ensure generations of new teachers benefit from the ‘best practice’ demonstrated by experienced teachers across our partnership.

Our support

Through working with the University of Sussex your school will benefit from:

- a wide range of subjects, routes and phases offered
- a proactive and responsive shared marketing and recruitment strategy
- a rigorous selection process involving compliance checks and guidance on subject knowledge enhancement opportunities
- a dedicated team of tutors and administrators providing timely support and advice at every stage from recruitment to assessment
- opportunities to meet and learn from other education professionals through meetings and events, and to contribute to key decision-making
- full University of Sussex Initial Teacher Education (ITE) quality assurance processes and guidance on developing your own bespoke training programmes.

We believe in:

- high expectations: we simply want to work together with schools to train the best teachers. Our recent track record shows 94% of our partnership trainees being judged as ‘good’ or ‘outstanding’ with 96% securing immediate employment following completion.
- access and challenge: it is our duty to provide first class support drawing upon some outstanding school mentors. We see teaching as an intellectual profession and offer all our trainees access to a Sussex PGCE with M Level credits.
- evidence-based practice: Sussex is a research-intensive university. We want our trainees and our school partners to benefit from sharing and creating new knowledge including participating in our new School-based Research Partnerships.
- transparency: all our partners are fairly financed for their contribution to the training cycle.
- and all are offered access to our M level Coaching Module and guest speakers at meetings and conferences.

• ongoing professional progression: School Direct is only the start of teacher development - NQTs are offered dedicated training support in their first year by their tutors and an opportunity to build on their 90 Masters credits by completing the other half of our Master of Education (MED). Mentoring also provides valuable Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Next steps

Contact School Direct Leader, Sally Dudley, to discuss:

a) joining an existing School Direct partnership,
b) the registering of an existing School Direct partnership to work with Sussex for the first time, or
c) registering as a new ‘lead school’ - with details of at least four other schools.

Registration is via the NCTL website [https://dataprovision.education.gov.uk/schdms/page.htm?to=page=schDmsLogin] and should be done by the deadline of 10th July 2015.

E: s.e.dudley@sussex.ac.uk
T: 07884 181318

Working with Sussex is a completely professional experience. The staff are highly knowledgeable, supportive and effective. They are genuinely committed to teacher training and are proactive in supporting schools and trainees to manage in a changing educational landscape. They have an open door and transparent procedures that are guided by all stakeholders. The Sussex education team is a pleasure to work with.

Joanne Calladine-Evans
Teaching School Director,
Thrive Teaching School Alliance, Bexhill

Students with Sussex University seem to always have strong resilience. They are always very professional and reflective about their practice.

Anne Radford, Headteacher,
Buxted CE Primary School,