

GET INTO TEACHING

PGCE AT OXFORD

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Teaching 

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The Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) at the University of Oxford is a one-year, full-time course of teacher education. In its latest report the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) graded our PGCE as 'outstanding' – the highest possible category. Successful graduates leave highly prepared to teach the full 11–18 age range.

The programme recognises the different roles of University and schools in teacher education and the need for a truly collaborative partnership. Rather than attempt to train all students to teach in a particular way, we aim to build on your existing strengths – as intelligent graduates and as mature, autonomous, motivated personalities – to help you teach in the way most suited to you and your school pupils.

If you are passionate about shaping the lives of children we welcome your application.

1

year full-time course

'OUTSTANDING'
OFSTED course

11–18

Teach the full 11–18 age range, including A-level, in 2 school placements

1885

Oxford have been educating teachers since the 19th century

A photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, a male teacher with dark hair, wearing a grey sweater over a blue and white striped shirt, is leaning over a desk. He is looking down at a female student with long brown hair, who is wearing a black school uniform with a yellow tie. The student is looking down at her work. To the right, a male student with dark hair, also in a black school uniform with a yellow tie, is looking up at the teacher. He is holding a pen over an open book. In the background, other students are seated at desks. One boy in the back right is raising his hand. The classroom has yellow walls and various educational posters and notices pinned to them. A blue banner with white text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

WHY A PGCE?

SUBJECT

Your PGCE curriculum subject will be the focus of your teacher training year. You get a chance to pursue a subject you really love and continue to learn whilst teaching others.

LOCATION

The taught elements of the Oxford PGCE are based within the University of Oxford and your partnership school will be based in Oxfordshire, or a neighbouring county. In addition to being close to your partnership school, Oxford PGCE students have the added benefit of experiencing the world famous city of dreaming spires.

ACADEMIC

The rigorous academic content of a PGCE can underpin best practice, preparing you for a long-term career in the classroom. Plus, students who are awarded the PGCE at Masters level can achieve Masters credits. These credits can be used for further study, including the MSc in Learning and Teaching at Oxford.

INTERNATIONAL

Successful Oxford students gain the PGCE and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), indicating that they have met the requirements of the government's Teachers' Standards. The PGCE is recognised across England and Wales. If you should decide to teach in Scotland, Northern Ireland or internationally the course at Oxford gives you both the academic PGCE and the QTS that you are likely to need to register as a qualified teacher.

TOP TIP

For national advice visit the Get Into Teaching website: getintoteaching.education.gov.uk



WHY OXFORD?

SPECIALISTS

Our PGCE course specialises in training secondary school teachers. Successful students of the Oxford PGCE leave highly prepared to teach the full 11–18 age range.

INTEGRATED

Students do not complete the academic or school components of the PGCE in isolation. Throughout the course you will spend time in both the University and partnership schools. In the first term you will usually spend three days in the University and two days in a partnership school per week. In the following two terms you will spend the majority of your time within a partnership school.

RESEARCH

Since its inception, the Oxford PGCE has viewed research as underpinning any developmental aspect of the programme. Academics use their current research to inform educational practice, and as a PGCE student you will conduct research into an area of education which interests you.

COLLEGES

PGCE students are guaranteed a place at one of Oxford's world-famous colleges. Colleges are small, multidisciplinary communities, where you will meet academics and fellow students from around the world. Colleges can offer accommodation, meals and social events and aim to support your welfare whilst you study.

I MADE A POINT OF VISITING COLLEGE WHEN I COULD; ATTENDING FORMAL DINNERS, SOCIALISING WITH MY COHORT, AND SO ON. COLLEGE LIFE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR OXFORD EXPERIENCE.

(Marc Deegan, R.E. PGCE, 2017/18)

Read more student stories on the "Student Experience" section of our website: www.education.ox.ac.uk



OXFORD OFFERS THE PGCE IN THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Religious Education
- Science

Applicants must hold, or be in the final year of, an undergraduate degree. Students typically study the subject they wish to complete a PGCE in, but degrees from related subjects will also be considered. Applicants must also hold a GCSE at grade C (level 4) or above in English and mathematics.

Applicants are encouraged to spend at least one day observing teachers in a non-selective, state funded UK secondary school prior to submitting an application. Many successful students complete more than this single day.





If your degree is in a related subject, or if you completed your studies a while ago, you may wish to consider a Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) course. SKEs are designed to refresh your subject confidence and can be completed in a variety of ways: in-person or online, full-time or part-time. Eligible students pay no SKE tuition fees and can receive a tax-free payment whilst they study.

Oxford supports SKE applications but does not run SKE courses itself. If your PGCE application is shortlisted you will be invited for an interview where you can have a tailored discussion about your SKE options with a representative from both the University and a partnership school.

Modern Foreign Language applicants who are native speakers of the target language do not need a degree in the language. Native speakers offering a second language should hold an A level (or equivalent) in the additional language or should be able to demonstrate equivalent knowledge, such as time spent living abroad.

TOP TIP

Look at the Department of Education's website for the latest course developments:
www.education.ox.ac.uk/programmes/pgce

SCHOOLS

The Oxford PGCE recognises the different roles of the University and schools in teacher education and the need for a truly collaborative partnership. It aims to enable students to use theoretical ideas from research to interrogate practice and vice versa. The development of the PGCE programme continues to be informed by research undertaken by teachers in partnership schools and University tutors.

All schools within the partnership are state maintained, with the majority being mixed 11–18 schools. Most of our partnership schools are based within Oxfordshire, with some located in neighbouring counties. The whole school, not just a group of individuals or departments, is committed to developing initial teacher education.

PGCE students experience teaching in a minimum of two schools. The first placement begins in September and normally concludes in April. This extensive first placement allows you to integrate fully into the wider school environment and begin to be viewed, both by your colleagues and pupils, as a teacher rather than as a teacher in training. In your second placement school during the summer term you will draw on your previous experiences and develop further your own personal teaching style in this new context.

TOP TIP

Under the “Partnership Schools” tab on the Department of Education’s website you will find an interactive map containing all of our partnership schools: www.education.ox.ac.uk/programmes/pgce





**THE PGCE HAS BEEN
INVALUABLE TO MY CURRENT
JOB; IT HAS GIVEN ME BOTH
THE SOLID PEDAGOGICAL AND
PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE THAT
ARE INTEGRAL TO STARTING
TO TEACH IN ANY SCHOOL.**

**(Gina Hunter, English PGCE 2017/18,
Didcot Girls' School)**

Read more student stories on the "Student Experience"
section of our website: www.education.ox.ac.uk



COURSE COMPONENTS

Two fundamental elements underpin the Oxford PGCE: the Curriculum Programme and the Professional Development Programme (PDP). These elements then support the components of the PGCE course: Orientation week, Joint weeks, Department weeks and School weeks. The Oxford PGCE begins in September and concludes in the following June.

CURRICULUM PROGRAMME

Curriculum sessions, based within the University, teach you how to teach your subject. The curriculum programme draws on theoretical perspectives, including current research, and practical aspects of teaching to enable you to develop your own teaching method. These sessions equip you with the skills to plan and deliver effective lessons and to evaluate your own teaching in a way that helps you develop over time.

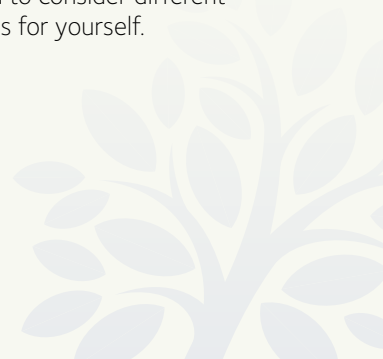


PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PDP)

The role of a teacher extends beyond their ability to teach a certain subject. The PDP sessions introduce you to the wider aspects of schooling such as: behavioural management, the needs of individual learners (including special educational needs), working with parents and carers and issues of diversity and social justice. You will also have school-based PDP sessions where you will examine the policies and practices of your own placement school. The PDP assignment enables you to study a particular cross-curricular topic which you personally find interesting.

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

The course is not seen as an apprenticeship in which students learn to teach like their mentor, nor is it a theory-into-practice model in which University teaching is enacted within schools. Instead we place the emphasis on you as a critical learner and encourage you to consider different perspectives and test out new ideas for yourself.



HOW YOU WILL SPEND YOUR TIME

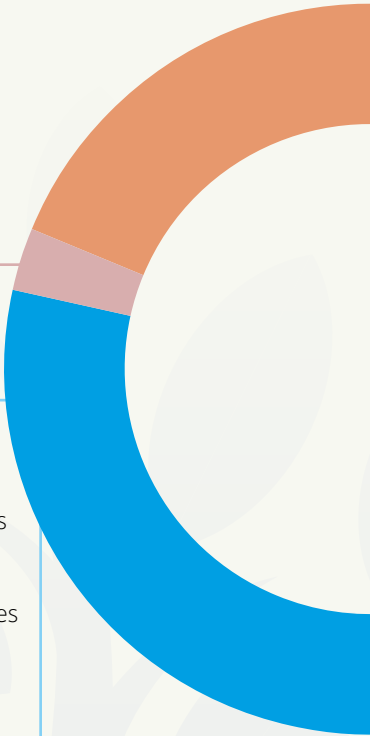
ORIENTATION WEEK

The PGCE course begins with a week’s orientation experience within UK state maintained primary and secondary schools. You will be provided with a subject-specific focus but will also closely observe the transition between primary and secondary school. Students are asked to arrange this experience themselves and so the schools visited do not have to be within Oxfordshire.

JOINT WEEKS

During the Joint weeks you will cover both the Curriculum Programme and PDP. From September until early November two days are spent in school and three days at the University per week. Curriculum sessions introduce subject-specific ideas and will set classroom based tasks so that you can investigate these ideas within the context of your school placement. This work will support you in the early stages of lesson preparation. From early November until the end of December three days are spent in school and two days at the University per week as you begin to gain experience of classroom teaching. During these joint weeks you also have the opportunity to attend short optional courses covering a range of topics including: drama, citizenship and education in developing countries.

SEPTEMBER														
PGCE WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
WEEK TYPE	O	D	J2	J2	J2	J2	D/IS	J2	J2	J3	J3	J3	J2	S1



SCHOOL WEEKS

From January students are in school for five days a week. The first partnership school placement concludes in April and students then move to their second partnership school placement until the end of the course. By this stage students are swiftly progressing towards becoming competent teachers and so this period allows you to start taking responsibility for your own professional development. There will be extensive support throughout from both school-based colleagues, such as the mentor, and from University tutors who make visits to your classroom.

DEPARTMENT WEEKS

There are occasional full weeks spent in the University of Oxford's Department of Education. These weeks provide an opportunity for intensive critical thinking and discussion about your subject teaching and key contemporary issues in education at local, national and international levels. These weeks also give you the opportunity to discuss and reflect upon aspects of your own developing teaching style with both tutors and peers. There are typically three department weeks throughout the PGCE year.

KEY

O	Orientation week: 3 days in a primary school, 2 days in a secondary school
D	Department week: 5 days in the Department
J2	2 days in first partnership school and 3 days in the Department
D/IS	2 days in the Department, then Independent Study
J3	3 days in first partnership school and 2 days in the Department
S1	5 days in first partnership school
ELO	Enhanced Learning Opportunity placement with SEND focus
D/S2	4 days in the Department, then second partnership school introduction day
S2	5 days in second partnership school
S2/D	3 days in second partnership school, 2 days in the Department

JUNE

18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
S1	D	IS	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	S1	ELO	D/S2	S2	S2	S2	IS	S2	S2	S2	S2/D



The University of Oxford's teacher training programme has been graded as 'outstanding' – the highest possible category – by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) in its latest report, published in December 2018. Inspectors found teacher training at the Department of Education to be of the highest standard in all areas.

Oxford's PGCE was given a single area of improvement: *"The partnership should continue to promote and embed its compelling vision for teacher education at local and national levels".*

OFSTED

RECRUITMENT

"Recruitment processes...are rigorous and thorough. Almost all trainees make a flying start to their training year"

LONG-TERM CAREERS

"Trainees are prepared for a long-term career in teaching, able to take responsibility for their own professional development and committed to social justice."

COURSE DESIGN

"The exceptionally well-crafted design of the course enables virtually all trainees to exceed the teachers' standards"



SCHOOL TEACHERS

"The partnership draws exceptionally well on the skills and experience of teachers and leaders within the partnership to enrich the curriculum studies and professional development aspects of the course."

TOP TIP

To read the report in full see <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/41/70057>
or search *University of Oxford PGCE Ofsted report*

NON UK

International qualifications viewed as comparable to qualifications taken within the UK are accepted for the PGCE. Any qualification obtained outside of the UK must be accompanied by a UK NARIC Statement of Comparability. Applicants can complete their PGCE application before contacting UK NARIC. For more information please visit: naric.org.uk

Applicants who do not hold a GCSE in English or maths (or a satisfactory equivalent) will be asked to complete a GCSE test. PGCE students are not required to take any additional language tests, however if you have previously completed such assessments (for example IELTS) then please present your results at interview.

Although all applicants are encouraged to gain experience within non-selective UK state schools before applying we appreciate that this can be a challenge for applicants outside of the UK. You could instead gain experience within a local school which follows the UK education system: observations of International GCSE lessons or time spent within an International School will be seen as highly relevant.

It is always preferable to interview PGCE applicants in person at the Department of Education. However on rare occasions we can hold interviews via Skype. A Skype interview is not guaranteed and is always held at the discretion of the assessing University tutor.



**COME AND MEET US AT
A PGCE EVENT.**

**VISIT THE EVENTS PAGES
OF OUR DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE FOR THE
LATEST INFORMATION**



WWW.EDUCATION.OX.AC.UK/NEWS-EVENTS/EVENTS



AFTER PGCE

Comprehensive and impartial careers support is available from our expert University Careers Service, and not just while you're here: our careers support is for life. As an Oxford alumnus you can also join the Oxford Alumni Community, the University's professional networking platform.

The Department of Education also offers support specifically for secondary school teachers.

The Early Career Teachers' Professional Development Conference consists of keynote lectures, workshops and panel discussions and aims to update your knowledge of the latest educational research and its applicability in both your subject and schools generally. Plus, The Oxford Education Deanery aims to improve outcomes for local young people by supporting teachers' on-going professional learning. The Deanery provides a wealth of resources to teachers giving them easy access to relevant, high-quality research, and opportunities to engage in joint collaborative research projects. Students who complete their PGCE at Masters level can also choose to complete further academic study, including the MSc in Learning and Teaching at Oxford.

"MY OWN CAREER DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN ONE THAT INTERWEAVES ACADEMIA WITH WORK IN THE INDUSTRY OF EDUCATION. COMPLETING THE PGCE AT OXFORD WAS THE BEST DECISION I HAVE EVER MADE: BEYOND ENABLING ME TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM TEACHER THE PGCE HAS OPENED INNUMERABLE DOORS WITHIN THE BROADER FIELD OF EDUCATION."

(Laura Molway, MFL PGCE 2009/10, current PGCE curriculum tutor)

Read more student stories on the "Student Experience" section of our website: www.education.ox.ac.uk





APPLYING

If you meet the eligibility criteria we would encourage you to submit your application straightaway!

When preparing your application you should: reflect upon the role of the teacher, discuss why you wish to become a secondary school teacher and explain why you would like to teach your specific subject. If you have been in formal education within the last five years then you must supply at least one academic reference.

If you have any questions or concerns then please get in touch:

Email: pgce.admissions@education.ox.ac.uk

Telephone: **01865 274020**

TOP TIP

There are no application deadlines for the PGCE at Oxford, but it is always advisable to apply early.



GCSES

All applicants must hold a GCSE at grade C (level 4) or above, or international equivalent, in English and mathematics.

SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Applicants are encouraged to spend at least one day observing teachers in a non-selective, state funded UK secondary school prior to submitting an application. Many successful students complete more than this single day.

DEGREE

Applicants must hold, or be in the final year of, an undergraduate degree. Students typically study the subject they wish to complete a PGCE in, but degrees from related subjects will also be considered.

INTERVIEW

If your application is shortlisted you will be invited to attend an interview at Oxford's Department of Education. Interviews include a group interview, an individual interview and subject-specific written tasks.



pgce.admissions@education.ox.ac.uk | Telephone: 01865 274020

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