

I have a criminal conviction. Can I still get a PGCE?

In many cases, yes, but it will depend on several factors, including:

- The date of the offence or other disclosed information
- The nature of the offence or other disclosed information
- Whether this was a repeated or single event
- The nature of any sentences or actions taken against you as a result
- The circumstances surrounding the original event
- The nature of the employment you engaged in, both prior to the event and subsequently
- Written references, including from previous employers
- Your behaviour and attitude during the risk assessment process
- Any other available information, e.g. from a GP

For the PGCE, there are two processes for considering criminal convictions: one managed by the Department of Education and the other overseen by the University's Criminal Conviction Panel. As outlined below, in the first instance, your disclosure will be reviewed by the Department, and then if the conviction disclosed meets the definition of a "relevant" criminal offence, which has to be disclosed to the [University as stipulated by the University](#), it will be considered by the University's Criminal Conviction Panel, which will follow the [University of Oxford's Criminal Conviction policy](#).

You will be required at the application stage to declare any potential safeguarding issues, such as criminal convictions or personal misconduct. If you should meet our selection criteria such that we would wish to make you an offer of a place on the PGCE, any safeguarding issues will be discussed with you by the PGCE Admissions Tutor before making any offer. We will not be able to make an offer to anyone banned from regulated activity with children under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (and amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012).

If you are made and accept an offer of a place, it will be a condition of your contract with the University that any information submitted with or in relation to your application, including any information about criminal convictions and other safeguarding issues, is true, genuine, accurate and complete. If it becomes apparent during the admissions process that that condition was not met (e.g., because you have not provided information about a particular conviction or only provided incomplete information), the University may terminate your contract.

Before you take up your place on the course, you will also be required to complete a Disclosure and Barring check, and international background check(s), if applicable. If the DBS check reveals that you are on the children's barred list, which means that you are banned from regulated activity with children under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (and amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012), your contract will be terminated. If any required international background check should reveal similar information (as determined by the country in which the check was completed), your contract will also be terminated.

Where other types of offences, or other material information, are disclosed, the case will be considered by the PGCE Admission Tutor who will complete a risk assessment (which may include recommendations for particular risk-mitigation measures) and make a recommendation to the Partnership Safeguarding Panel, which will usually include a senior member of the Department, the Chair of the Partnership Committee (or their nominee) and the Local Authority Designated Officer. The Panel will decide one of the following:

- No further action is required and the recommendation(s) of the PGCE Admission tutor is/are confirmed;
- Your offer may be maintained provided changes are made to the risk assessment;
- Your offer of a place on the PGCE course should be withdrawn (or in cases where an offer has already been confirmed, the contract with the University should be terminated).

If it is decided that changes to the risk assessment are required, the PGCE Coordinator (or another senior administrator from the Oxford University Department of Education) will conduct an interview with you and complete a new risk assessment. This risk assessment will be reviewed by the Partnership Safeguarding Panel with one of the outcomes set out above.

If the conviction disclosed meets the definition of a “relevant” criminal offence which has to be disclosed to the [University as stipulated by the University](#), the case documents, together with the decision of the Partnership Safeguarding Panel and any risk assessment, will then be passed on to the University for consideration by the University’s Criminal Conviction Panel, which will follow the [University of Oxford’s Criminal Conviction policy](#).

Where a risk assessment has been required, it will be shared confidentially with the headteacher and Professional Tutor at your placement school. Our partnership schools retain the right to refuse to host any intern, and in the event no school placement can be agreed, you would not be able to start the course.

You will be removed from the course if:

1. You do not complete your DBS check and/or any required international background check before the start of the course without good reason (e.g., international students who cannot apply for the DBS check until they are resident in the UK but who have provided international background checks);
2. Your DBS check reveals that you are banned from regulated activity with children under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (and amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012);
3. Your DBS check and/or any international background check(s) reveals any issue in relation to your suitability to work with children and young people where the Partnership Safeguarding Panel decides that the risk cannot be mitigated by the risk assessment process; and/or
4. Your placement school decides not to host you as a result of any issue revealed by your DBS check and/or international background check(s) in relation to your suitability to work with children and young people, and an alternative placement school cannot be found after reasonable enquiries have been made.

For more information see Regulation 28 of [Council Regulations 8 of 2006, Regulations for Procedures Concerning Fitness to Teach During the Course of the PGCE Programme](#).