Teacher training
Welcome

Our Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses are designed to enable you to become an accomplished, passionate and inspirational teacher, who can make a real difference to the lives of children.

Both our Primary and Secondary programmes will not only equip you with the skills you need to become an effective educator, but will also enable you to develop your own theories of learning and models of good practice, through critical engagement with theories of education, education policy and education practice. We believe that such teachers are committed to working in a variety of schools within diverse communities and that they serve as role models for the young people they teach.

This means that by choosing to study teacher training at Nottingham, you will not only be maximising your potential to become an amazing teacher, but you will also have an in-depth understanding of the relationship between educational theory and practice, making you a highly skilled education professional.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Stef Sullivan
Director of Initial Teacher Education

Why teach?

“It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.”

Albert Einstein

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Make a difference

We believe that every child deserves to have an education that enables them to reach their full potential. By becoming a teacher, you can nurture and inspire children to acquire knowledge and develop essential skills that form the blueprint for the rest of their lives.

A career in teaching gives you the opportunity to play a pivotal role in children’s lives, and to help break cycles of poverty and low academic achievement.

Invest in your own personal development

Teaching is a challenging and rewarding career in which no two days are ever the same. You will be immersed in a stimulating learning environment and you will develop vital skills for your own personal growth and career progression.

These include:
- Confidence
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Organisation
- Adaptability
- Problem solving

Develop your leadership and management skills

As a teacher you are first and foremost, a leader in your classroom, and from the very beginning of your teaching career you will utilise and develop your leadership and management potential.

Teaching offers opportunities for progression into more senior positions, including head of department; head of year; pastoral manager; deputy/assistant head teacher and head teacher. Such roles enable you to look beyond the classroom, and seek to affect change and have influence on the wider school and educational policies and practices.

Various bursaries are available to assist career-changers with the transition into teaching. Find out more at: gov.uk/teacher-training-funding
Why choose Nottingham for teacher training?

We have been a leading provider of teacher education since 1890, and it is this exemplary heritage, coupled with our drive to innovate and excel that makes us one of the foremost institutions for teacher training in the UK.

Undertaking teacher training at the University of Nottingham enables students to benefit from a combination of expert academic knowledge and an emphasis on practical skills. Our trainee teachers are placed in schools in week one, and are fully supported by a bespoke programme of assistance throughout their training year. Furthermore, you will be taught by academics who are all experienced teachers and who are recognised nationally and internationally for their work.

Our programmes provide you with a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), 60 masters-level credits and Qualified Teacher Status by meeting Teacher Standards. You will also graduate with all the skills you need to become a confident and inspiring teacher.

In their latest report, Ofsted identified a number of our strengths, including:

- very strong and active partnerships with schools
- a highly inclusive approach
- high expectations
- the relentless pursuit of excellence

Our primary and secondary teaching courses have been rated ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted.

We are ranked 4th in the UK for Education in the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject.

Over 95% of our teacher training graduates secure employment as teachers.

The School of Education is based on the innovative Jubilee Campus, which has won awards for its environmentally friendly design.

Praised for its innovative architecture and environmentally friendly technology, the campus offers one of the most modern and beautiful environments in which to study teacher training in the UK. It features futuristic architecture, a library in a lake, eco-friendly buildings and the UK’s tallest freestanding work of public art, Aspire.
Primary teacher training at Nottingham

We offer two routes into primary school teaching:

- Primary PGCE School Direct 3-11 years
- Primary PGCE 5-11 years

We work in partnership with excellent schools across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, enabling you to gain a broad experience of different educational settings. In addition to your school placements, you will undertake on-campus study at the University where you will be part of a vibrant cohort of beginning teachers.

"I had practised as a criminal barrister for many years prior to retraining as a teacher. The School Direct course provided the opportunity to spend time in the classroom, working alongside skilled practitioners, four days a week. I was teaching a small group of children in my first week at school and was soon teaching the whole class under the watchful eye of my school mentor, who was able to develop and shape my classroom practice."

Martin Knight
School Direct Primary

Secondary teacher training at Nottingham

We offer two routes into secondary school teaching:

- Secondary PGCE
- School Direct Secondary PGCE

Focusing on the six core subjects of English, Geography, History, Maths, Science and Modern Languages our Secondary programmes equip you with the skills and knowledge to make the subject come alive for your students. You will develop an in-depth knowledge of the curriculum and will gain practical experience on placements in our partner schools.

You will benefit from:

- 60 masters credits towards an MA Education
- a support network of University tutors, school coordinators and mentors who will help you to develop into the best teacher you can be
- a personalised programme of professional development that will enhance your growth and identity as a beginning teacher

Find out more about the core subject courses on pages 8-10.

Overview of the two pathways

PGCE School Direct

You will have a two day induction at the University, after which you will begin your first school placement. You will follow the school calendar, working four days per week in school throughout the whole of the school year, with a training day at the University every Friday.

You will also complete a placement in a second school that promotes collaborative learning, and have the opportunity to undertake placements in a range of educational settings.

PGCE

Beginning in early September, this route gives you extended placements in at least two schools, enabling you to gain a broad experience of different, and contrasting, educational settings.

In addition to your school placements, there are days spread over the year based at the University where you will be part of interactive, practical sessions that support you to reflect on, and develop your practice.

Overview of the two pathways

On both secondary routes you are predominantly based in schools throughout the year, with your school experiences starting from week one of the course.

There are 40 University-based days spread across the year where you are part of a vibrant cohort of beginning teachers, reflecting on and developing your practice.

On the Secondary PGCE you will have extended placements in at least two schools, while on the School Direct Secondary PGCE you will be predominantly based in one school with a half-term placement in a second school in the spring term.
English

About the course
English will have been your preoccupation for some time and you will develop methods of using your excitement, enthusiasm and knowledge to bring the subject to life for your pupils, in order to enable them as learners.

You will explore a wide variety of teaching methods to empower children through their use and understanding of spoken and written language.

We want you to take a critical and imaginative approach to the course and to ask your own questions about the curriculum, about appropriate methodologies and about teaching style.

What you will cover
You will explore the requirements of the English curriculum and the needs of learners through the consideration of concepts including:

- Teaching Shakespeare as if his work was a spectacular treasure instead of an academic entry qualification
- Technology enhanced learning in the English classroom
- Teaching poetry as a live art form with an exciting history
- Help children to understand that language is a workable material and that knowledge about all aspects of the language is interesting, purposeful and powerful.

Geography

About the course
Central to our geography teacher education course is the basic tenet that all young people, regardless of social class, race, ethnicity, gender or ability can learn and enjoy geography, and that geography, as a discipline, has a significant contribution to make to the broader aims of education.

We argue that for young people living in a fast-changing world a high-quality geography education is essential.

The idea of geography as a school ‘subject’ is central to the design of our course. By this we mean that the course enables beginning teachers to understand how their own passion for geography translates into interesting, challenging and worthwhile learning for young people.

What you will cover
You will explore important questions in relation to geography education, such as:

- What does it mean to ‘think geographically’ and why is this important to young people?
- In what ways does geography contribute to an understanding of wider society?
- What do you need to know about young people in order to help them learn geography?
- How do geography teachers maintain and develop their own disciplinary knowledge and sustain their own geographical imaginations?
- What approaches, styles and teaching strategies can you use to support geographical learning?

History

About the course
Do you want to make history come alive for young people? Our history course will equip you with the skills and knowledge to help you in this quest and enable you to become a teacher who can make a real difference to the lives of pupils, ensuring they have a meaningful and engaging experience of history during their time at school.

You will be encouraged to utilise your passion for the subject to develop inventive ways to engage your pupils with the past. You will work with them as a teacher to analyse, interpret, evaluate and contextualise events and historical sources.

As a beginning history teacher, we will support you in developing your own philosophy of teaching history, based on innovative and evidenced based practice.

What you will cover
You will explore a range of different approaches and activities used in history classrooms, as well as working closely with local partners such as the National Holocaust Centre to develop your understanding of history outside the classroom.

You will also examine how historical sites, fieldwork visits and museums can support and enhance pupil learning and during your time on placement, you will develop a substantive understanding of history based on an extensive subject knowledge base and deep appreciation of historical concepts and processes.

Mathematics

About the course
We believe that mathematics should be perceived as a subject which is interesting, creative and challenging and one in which everyone can be successful. You will be encouraged to re-think your ideas on mathematics learning and teaching, and to experience and develop for yourself a wide variety of styles and techniques to use in the classroom.

Our team of maths tutors and our school-based mentors are all experienced secondary maths teachers and our shared vision is that, after a year of working with us, you will be a confident and creative mathematics teacher.

We also work closely with our colleagues in the internationally renowned Centre for Research into Mathematics Education (CRME) who teach on the course and contribute to its development.

What you will cover
Throughout the course, as you explore and experience lessons and mathematical activities, you will develop your knowledge and expertise in:

- Understanding the mathematical narrative of a lesson and how mathematical ideas are sequenced
- Understanding pupils’ behaviours in maths lessons and their attitudes towards the subject
- Understanding the social context of the classroom and mathematics education

Because of the strength of our partnerships with local schools and the place of initial teacher education in CRME, we are able to offer you unique experiences to support you as you develop as a teacher.
Science

About the course
You can specialise in Biology, Chemistry or Physics and you will develop the skills and knowledge to become an inspiring and engaging science teacher who will bring the subject to life for the young people you work with.

In collaboration with experienced teachers from our partnership schools, we have designed a course that supports you to consider the everyday reality of teaching science, while at the same time exploring the challenges and issues underpinning science education in our fast-changing and global world.

What you will cover
You will consider the important questions such as:

■ What is the content and structure of the current science curriculum?
■ Is the curriculum appropriate for our learners today?
■ What is the nature/essence of science?
■ How can I develop my learners’ understanding about how scientists actually go about their work?
■ What difficulties do pupils experience when learning science?

You will also gain insights into the complexities of teaching and learning and how to critically reflect on your own and others’ practice, in order to ensure your own professional development.

Modern Languages

About the course
You will gain the necessary skills to support language learners to develop the linguistic skills and intercultural competence necessary, to operate effectively as 21st century global citizens.

Five themes underpin the course, which will help you to explore innovative approaches to teaching and learning modern languages in schools for the future:

■ Content of modern languages learning and teaching
■ Communication in modern languages learning and teaching
■ Cognition and thinking skills through modern languages
■ Cultures for modern languages learning and teaching
■ Contexts for learning from classrooms to global communities

You are expected to offer two languages as this will increase your employability. If you have one language, you are encouraged and supported in developing a second one.

What you will cover
You will study a wide variety of topics including:

■ the contribution of modern languages to the whole curriculum
■ using technology to support language learning
■ creativity in language learning
■ linguistic skills
■ lesson planning and preparation
■ differentiation in the languages classroom
■ extending learning beyond the classroom

“Every day is a different story, and what I love most is that no two days are the same. It’s a really rewarding job and I would recommend it to anyone.”

Sarah Smith
PGCE Foreign Languages

Applying and entry requirements

Applying for School Direct
■ Visit our website to identify your lead school
■ Apply online: ucas.com/teacher-training
■ Search for Primary or Secondary, then search for School Direct, and then search for your lead school
■ Complete a personal statement
■ Suitable candidates will be invited to interview at the University and at your placement school
■ Successful applicants will be offered a place

Applying for PGCE
■ Apply online: ucas.com/teacher-training
■ Our institution code is NOTTM N84
■ Complete and submit the application form following the UCAS instructions
■ Complete a personal statement
■ Suitable candidates will be invited for interview at the University
■ Successful applicants will be offered a place

Primary teaching entry requirements
■ UK undergraduate degree/equivalent – any subject
■ GCSE/equivalent – English language, mathematics and science, 4 (C) or above
■ Professional Skills tests – pass
■ Satisfactory medical report
■ Enhanced Disclosure from Disclosure and Barring Service
■ Minimum 10 days’ experience in state sector primary school

Secondary teaching entry requirements
■ UK undergraduate degree/equivalent – 50% of your degree must be in your proposed teaching subject
■ GCSE/equivalent – English language and mathematics, 4 (C) or above
■ Professional Skills tests – pass
■ Satisfactory medical report
■ Enhanced Disclosure from Disclosure and Barring Service