

Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship – Primary or Secondary

Level 6

Prospective teachers considering teaching in a UK state school need to have a degree and a recognised teaching qualification. The University of Wolverhampton has years of experience delivering initial teacher training programmes, which provide a combination of academic study and time in school as candidates learn about key teaching methods.

This route is ideal for candidates who have experience of working in school and are looking to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). The Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship is an employment-based initial teacher training programme, which enables Apprentice trainee teachers to develop professional skills in the classroom whilst demonstrating evidence towards meeting the Teachers' Standards for QTS. Apprentices at the University of Wolverhampton follow either the Primary or Secondary route.

How it works

The Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship requires that the main training school releases the Apprentice for 20% of their time for university-based training and activities. A second school experience of 30 days enables the Apprentice to demonstrate meeting the Professional Standards for Teachers, in a contrasting and complementary school setting, as required by the Department for Education.

Candidates working in SEN schools undertake an additional 30 day placement, in order to demonstrate meeting all of the professional standards in mainstream settings.

A skills coach is provided by the University to support and undertake observation and feedback visits every half term. The Apprentice collects a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and behaviours contained in the Teachers' Standards to be recommended for QTS at the end of the initial teacher training year. To successfully complete the Apprenticeship, the Apprentice must negotiate the 'gateway' to be entered for the formal end-point assessment. This requires an additional fourth term of teaching in school and the assessment, including a lesson observation and a professional discussion based on the portfolio of evidence.

The school must be able to provide support in developing the Apprentice as a practitioner and in compiling the portfolio of evidence. To ensure quality of training provision, the school must meet a number of criteria. To find out more, contact us (see 'Register your interest') or visit: wlv.ac.uk and search for 'postgraduate teaching Apprenticeships'.



How do schools support a candidate through this route?

The school must be able to provide support in developing the Apprentice as a practitioner and in compiling the Portfolio of Evidence. To ensure quality of training provision, the school:

- provides a contract of employment for the full duration of the programme in accordance with either the unqualified or qualified teacher's pay scales
- ensures an enhanced disclosure DBS check is carried out prior to employment
- provides the opportunity within the programme for the Apprentice to achieve a balance of teaching across the two relevant consecutive age ranges
- provides a timetable to ensure that: secondary Apprentices teach at least 50% of their chosen specialist subject; primary Apprentices teach across the Primary curriculum – **all Apprentices must be able to demonstrate teaching a mainstream curriculum in order to meet the Teachers' Standards for Qualified Teacher Status**
- ensures that the teaching timetable is phased in, at an appropriate rate to match the Apprentice's previous experience, to reach no more than 90% of a normal teacher's timetable for the days of teaching
- does not require the Apprentice to do cover for colleagues
- enables the Apprentice to have teaching experience in two schools, across the full age and ability range of training (*the school will be required to make arrangements for the Apprentice to spend a minimum of 30 days in a second school to complement the training undertaken in the main mainstream school, or 60 days to complement the training in a SEN school*).
- releases the Apprentice from school to attend all University-based training days (approximately 20 days across the year); primary Apprentices attend University for block weeks, while secondary Apprentices attend for one day per week
- formally observes the Apprentice teaching, with written and oral feedback, at least once every week throughout the training period
- make sure that the Apprentice meets formally with the line manager to discuss issues related to the individual development plan, at least once every week throughout the training programme.
- assigns a mentor who will regularly meet with and advise the Apprentice.
- ensures the line manager writes an Individual Development Plan each term, which is reviewed and amended to account for ongoing professional development each half-term
- ensures the line manager writes a report each term, commenting on the Apprentice's progress against the Teachers' Standards and sets appropriate targets for the following term
- ensures the line manager assesses the evidence collected by the Apprentice against each of the Teachers' Standards (*these assessments inform the Individual Development Plans and provide a summative assessment against all the Teachers' Standards at the end of the training period*)
- ensures the line manager attends training sessions at the University to support quality training across all schools.



Job roles/Occupations

Successful completion of the Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship leads to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and meeting the Apprenticeship Standard. Gaining Qualified Teacher Status ensures that Apprentices will be well-placed to gain employment in UK schools and other education settings, with access to further career opportunities and pay progression in school.

Benefits

The course has been designed to develop school teachers who will be:

- empathetic and committed to pupils' learning
- critically reflective and reflexive
- enthusiastic and innovative
- open-minded and research-aware
- capable of engaging in collaborative inquiry and practitioner research
- flexible and creative decision-makers.

The course will also help the Apprentice to develop as a teacher who understands the link between subject knowledge and the curriculum knowledge needed to teach specialist subjects. Equally Apprentices will develop as teachers who understand the needs of the individual pupil and the school community in which they will work.

Qualifications

The Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeship is specifically designed to ensure that those who are successful can be recommended to the relevant professional body for the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) – the professional award required by all those who wish to teach in a maintained school. Successful completion of the End Point Assessment leads to the award of the Apprenticeship Standard.

Entry requirements

Initial Teacher Training Entry requirements for this route are as stated in the ITT criteria (December 2021), as published on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website, that all entrants have:

- the equivalent of grade 4 in GCSE English and mathematics (and a science subject for those training to teach the primary age phase) The University provides equivalence tests for candidates who are suitable for the route but do not have the required GCSE qualifications. These candidates will also be required to undertake level 2 qualifications in English and Maths during the programme
- a degree awarded by a UK higher education provider, or a recognised equivalent qualification
- been successful in a selection process to assess a candidate's suitability to train to teach.

Fees and funding

Employers that pay the Apprenticeship Levy will be able to use up to £9,000 of funding to cover the cost of training and assessing the Apprentice.

Employers that do not pay the Levy or who have insufficient funds in their Apprenticeship account are able to access funding to support the training and assessment of an Apprentice. In this instance, the government will pay 95% of the costs of training and assessment for the Apprenticeship (up to the £9,000 Apprenticeship funding band maximum), with the employer paying the remaining 5%.

Schools that are part of a School Direct Alliance may access additional grant funding in shortage subject areas.

Register your interest

Call: **0800 953 3222**

Email: apprenticeshiphub@wlv.ac.uk
wlv.ac.uk/apprenticeships

