



Entry Requirements

Degree

All applicants are required on entry to their teacher training course to hold a UK degree or equivalent qualification.

For secondary applicants this must be in, or closely related to, your proposed teaching subject. As a guideline we would expect to see that at least 50% of your first degree is directly relevant to the National Curriculum subject you intend to teach.

On your application form, give us the details of what you've studied at degree level and make a case for why it's relevant. We aim to look sympathetically at each application but you need to be aware that subject knowledge is an increasingly important element in the assessment of trainee teachers. Although you will have the chance to improve and, perhaps, update your subject knowledge, the course is not designed to teach the subject itself—it is designed to teach you how to teach it.

You might want to consider taking action to develop your subject knowledge prior to coming on the course and there are an increasing number of specific courses being developed to support this, details of which can be obtained through the Department of Education website.

GCSEs

We require you to hold passes in English Language and Mathematics at GCSE grade C or above (grade 4+), or an approved equivalent qualification. We can consider you for the programme if you do not have these GCSE qualifications at the time you apply, but you must obtain them before the course starts.

Fitness to Teach

Admission to the course is subject to a satisfactory medical report, as you are required to meet the standards for 'Suitability to teach'. A declaration of health questionnaire will be completed by successful applicants and sent to Occupational Health Services.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

For all initial teacher training courses, applicants must complete forms requesting an Enhanced Disclosure from the DBS. In addition, you will be required to disclose previous offences.

Literacy and Numeracy Skills Tests

Whilst you are not required to have applied and passed these before interview, you are strongly recommended to take these as soon as possible. All applicants with a conditional offer must have passed these prior to coming on course.



What we are looking for

A desire to teach and work with young people

Obviously you need to like young people and enjoy working with them. We would like to see evidence of observation and participation in schools as this strengthens your application and require a minimum of five days school-based experience prior to commencing the course.

Effective communication skills

All teachers need to be able to communicate well. But don't worry—we won't expect you to arrive on day one fully confident in addressing large groups of people! During the year you'll be amazed at the progress you can make and you will get lots of practical support from us.

A commitment to work hard on the course

Yes, we do expect you to work hard and be committed, but the work will be rewarding. Teaching is a job where you can really make a difference to young people's lives.

Determination to succeed

Success rates on our ITE courses are high. It isn't because the course is easy! It is because of the high calibre of the students on the course, the course itself and the teachers in the partnership schools. If we offer you a place on the course, we will be committed to helping you make a success of it.

A readiness to listen and share

Teaching is about working with others—pupils, colleagues, parents and carers. By working in our schools we encourage you to work collaboratively, both with other students and with our teachers. We think this is the best way of learning to teach effectively.

A flexible approach to learning and teaching

You need to be open to new ideas, not too set in your ways, willing to review your own progress and reflect on the new situations in which you will find yourself. You also need to be organised and independent. By the end of the year you will be taking responsibility for other people's learning as well as your own.

How we Select our Trainees

There is a two stage process for the School based PGCE course. We will screen your application and decide whether to offer you an interview. If you are offered an interview this will be at our lead School, Toot Hill School in Bingham, Nottinghamshire. If successful at this stage you will then be allocated two placement schools within our partnership.



Your Application

Your UCAS-TT application form is looked at very carefully. In particular, at the first screening stage where we are interested in your personal statement, your qualifications and your experience.

Use the personal statement to convince us that you genuinely want to teach and will make a good teacher. Make sure that you have given us a clear indication of the subject content of your degree. We will also look at whether you have taken care to present your application form professionally.

On the basis of our consideration of your application form, and the academic references that accompany it, the SCITT decides whether to invite you for an interview.

Your Interview

When you come for an interview, there are likely to be other applicants being interviewed alongside you in an initial group task. We are keen to see that you can work collaboratively with others.

You will also be asked to complete a subject-related written task and then to give a short presentation entitled 'Why I want to teach.' The formal interview will include subject specific as well as general questions. You will also be given the opportunity to ask us any questions that you may have at that stage.

The criteria we will use at interview to decide whether or not we offer you a place on the course are:

- An awareness of current educational issues
- A realistic and positive view of schools and schooling
- An open and enquiring mind
- Clear reasons for wanting to teach at the level for which you have applied
- Motivation and commitment to teaching pupils of all levels of ability
- Maturity and self-confidence
- An appropriate level of subject knowledge in your chosen subject for secondary applicants

You will be interviewed by staff from the Nottinghamshire Torch SCITT.

What Happens Next?

We will inform you of our decision as soon as possible after your interview. Following interviews, we will discuss with successful applicants the most appropriate schools for their needs and skills.

If you are given a conditional offer of a place on the course, you will receive a pack of information from the Nottinghamshire Torch SCITT describing the steps you should take next. The conditional offer will become unconditional when we have received your acceptance and all the necessary clearances and documentation.

We know this is a rigorous and thorough process but we and you need to be sure that teaching is for you!



After the Course

Most of the trainees who train on Nottinghamshire SCITT courses go on to teach in the East Midlands region and many gain posts in the schools in which they have completed their training.

All trainees and students on the school-based PGCE courses automatically receive a conditional offer on the MA in Education with the University of Nottingham and many go on to become mentors in the partnership.

Whilst there is no guarantee of employment after the course, we do hope to train teachers for our alliance.