Get ready for PGCE Secondary

I hope that you are looking forward to starting your course. As your Programme Leads, we warmly welcome you onto our PGCE Secondary programme.

Below I have provided some guidance to help you start the programme with confidence. Subject-specific guidance included near the end of this document in the section titled Subject Preprogramme Information. This section includes links to recommended readings to prioritise and address any gaps in subject knowledge.

You will also be able to check in and access guidance via our Padlet through the summer months.

You have a year ahead that will provide both challenge and reward; I look forward to meeting you and working closely with you across the programme.

Terra Glowach & Nicola Rew

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Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 31st August for registration and 2nd September for the first programme lecture (9.30AM in 2B020).

To make sure you are prepared and 'in the loop' please look at our Padlet where you can engage with your tutor and access links to the various services at UWE. Details of our Offer Holder Open Day on 6th June (Frenchay Campus) can also be found here.

Actions you must complete before you start your study

The Admissions team have already been in touch to let you know that you need to provide your academic certificates or evidence of qualifications and complete the mandatory professional checks before you start studying with us. If you do not complete them, it will impact your ability to enrol onto the programme.

You need to complete:

1. Your Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

   Please check your admissions communications carefully for important information about any outstanding requirements for your course, including your DBS check, Occupational Health clearance and, where applicable, an Overseas Criminal Record check and Suitability Declaration.

   These checks form part of the requirements for your course, so we encourage you to complete any required actions as early as possible when contacted. Doing so will help you prepare for registration and placements.

   Please keep an eye on messages in your UWE Welcome portal, your personal email inbox, and your junk/spam folder. If you are unsure what you need to do, or have any difficulty completing the checks, please contact AID.Processing@uwe.ac.uk.

2. Occupational Health (OH) clearance

Engaging with the Occupational Health process is a mandatory requirement of the PGCE and is essential for progressing on to registering with university.

We ask that you tell us about any health conditions (physical or mental health) openly and honestly so that we may support you in the most appropriate way. Providing accurate information to occupational health enables us to understand any reasonable adjustments which may be appropriate. As a potential future teacher, you have a duty to provide all relevant and accurate information. If you do not disclose something that later impacts your studies this may lead to a discussion under our Fitness to Practice policies.

3. Overseas Criminal Record check (only applicable for overseas students or students that have lived, studied, or worked overseas for five months or more in the last five years)
4. Suitability Declaration for Teaching

These compliance checks are in addition to any external requirements such as provision of references via DfE Apply for PGCE courses. Find out more about the mandatory professional checks and full details of what to expect as part of the application process. If any of these requirements are still outstanding, you must send the relevant paperwork to admissions, as instructed, as soon as possible.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' webpage to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Registration

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Registration website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

For Admissions related queries, please contact admissions@uwe.ac.uk

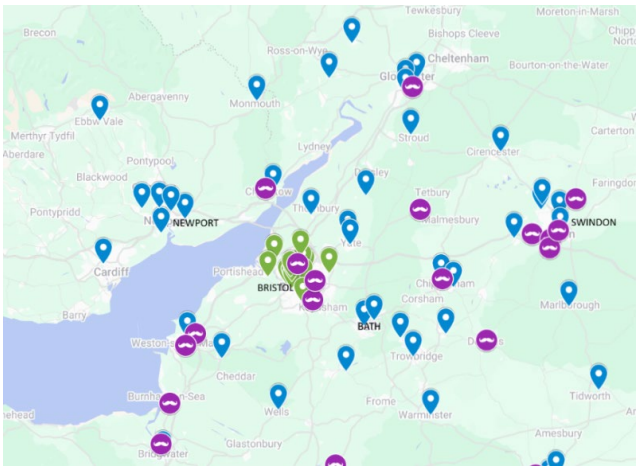
Bursaries

Please read the Get into Teaching website for more information on Bursaries and Scholarships. Please view and complete the bursary form below to prepare to start your studies.

Bursary Application Form- Please complete this having read the Initial Teacher Training Bursary Guide. Please note that bursary applications will not be authorised for payment until satisfactory DBS and occupational health checks have been completed and all educational certificates, which gained you entry to the course, have been seen by the Admissions Office. If your bursary hasn't been processed due to outstanding requirements, any missed payment will be made the following month along with your next scheduled payment. Bursary payments are typically issued at the beginning of each month, from October through to July inclusive.

For any bursary-related queries, please contact EDU.SPS@uwe.ac.uk

Placement Information



Placement Locations

We work with a broad range of educational partners, including large multi-academy trusts, small academies, Welsh schools, and independent schools. Many of these partners have collaborated with us for several years, while others are newly established relationships.

Allocation

Each year, partners offer placements across subjects, and we allocate trainees based on training needs, occupational health considerations, disabilities, caring responsibilities, and school requirements.
If you know of a school willing to support your placement—such as one connected to friends, colleagues, or family—please inform us so we can explore the opportunity.
If you are dissatisfied with your allocation, you may submit a change request form for review; however, a change is not guaranteed.

Additional Information Form

Please view and complete the Additional Information Form to prepare to start your studies. It is crucial that this is done at your very earliest convenience as it is a mandatory document which gives us information, we need to place you in school. Delays in completing this form may delay the allocation of your first placement. Please be as open and honest as you can when engaging with Occupational Health so that the Programme Leads and the Placement Teams can best support you.

Placement Access & Costs

We do not provide financial support for travel or access to placements, so please plan ahead and consider living and transport costs.

All placements are located within 90 minutes of UWE's Frenchay Campus. In exceptional cases requiring travel beyond this limit, we will explore alternative support options with you. Only 1 placement can be undertaken in Wales so if you are planning to live in Wales you will need to consider that a shorter commute for one placement will be offset with a longer commute for the other.

Preparation Tips

To prepare effectively, consider the following:

- Review the partner schools map of placement locations from 2025/26
- Choose accommodation near good transport links if you do not have access to a car / motorbike. Cycling to transport links cuts commute times considerably.
- Assess transport costs from your proposed living area to various partner schools to plan your budget for travel.

Indicative Transport Costs

Examples of commonly travelled train routes include	Examples of commonly travelled bus routes include
Bristol Temple Meads → Swindon: £20–25 daily return Filton Parkway → Newport: £10–15 daily return Bristol Temple Meads → Weston-super-Mare: £10–17 daily return Train prices vary daily and are usually cheaper if booked in advance or with a student railcard	UWE Bristol → Central Bristol: £3–5 return UWE Bristol → East Bristol: £4–8 return UWE Bristol → South Bristol: £4–8 return Bus prices vary daily and are often cheaper with a student card. Your commute may involve a combination of bus and train travel.

Additional Advice

We encourage trainees to be creative with transport—consider options such as electric scooters or bicycles. Having a car can be helpful, and you may be asked to support others travelling to the same school. This can reduce costs and provide opportunities to reflect on the day together.
If you have any further questions, please get in touch with us: partnership@uwe.ac.uk

School Experience

If you do not have recent experience of working in a school, we strongly recommend volunteering your time as a mentor or Teaching Assistant to learn about the professional expectations for teachers. Familiarity with the diversity of student backgrounds and learning needs, as well as a typical classroom dynamic will help you put the content of lectures and readings into context. It will also give you a sense of how to communicate well and build relationships in the intensely social and cooperative life of a school.

Programme Dates

The PGCE runs to a different timetable than you may be familiar with at undergraduate level. As a professional course we align with school holidays though these differ throughout the Southwest. The dates are only indicative so please avoid booking any holidays until you have spoken to your tutor.		
Term 1 1st September – registration 2nd September – term begins (campus) Half-term 26th October – 30th October (school dates may differ) Last day of term 18th December (school dates may differ)	Term 2 5th January -term begins (campus) Half-term 15th February (school dates may differ) Last day of term 25th March (school dates may differ)	Term 3 12th April – term begins (campus) Half-term – 31stMay – 4th June (school dates may differ) Last day of term – 25th June Extension period 28th June – 9th July

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

In anticipation for the library induction, please look at the various support services offered by the library at Frenchay . In advance of arriving at UWE, please fill in the workbook. This workbook will help you to make the most of the resources that are available to you within the library and point you to where you can find extra help and support in any areas that you feel would be useful during your time here at UWE.

Reading

To succeed you will need to think critically about key issues and practices. You will find some books and resources related to one of our module called Curriculum, Pedagogy and Practice below. The subject-specific welcome information will also detail further texts designed to help you to understand the scope of your programme. To get ahead on the Curriculum, Pedagogy and Practice module, you may find it useful to access

the following readings, although purchase of these four books is not compulsory and some will be available to you digitally through the UWE Library on registration:

CORE TEXT: Capel, S., Leask, M. and Younie, S. (eds.). (2019) Learning to Teach in the Secondary School (9th ed.). London and New York: Routledge.

Allison, S. and Tharby, A. (2015) Making Every Lesson Count - 6 principles to support great teaching. Carmarthen: Crown House Publishing Limited.

Sherrington T. (2019) Rosenshine's Principles in Action. London: John Catt Educational

Understanding current educational issues: Begin to familiarise yourself with some pertinent debates within Secondary education. This can be achieved through habitual engagement with appropriate sections of popular press publications, such as the Times Educational Supplement, or the Guardian's Education section. There are also some sector specific journalistic sources such as Schools Week that contain free-to-access content. If you use twitter, there are numerous educational stakeholders who share insightful news and developments through this medium too.

Connect with others

Join the Chartered College of Teaching (CCT), our professional body, which looks to celebrate, support, and connect UK teachers. It is free to join as a student member and highly recommended that you do, such that you become part of a growing organization at a very interesting time for the professionalisation of teaching. Go to chartered.college for information.

Be Prepared

Access support

Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Clean up your online presence

Before you begin the programme, you will need to secure and remove your personal details, online history and any documented activity that may be construed as unprofessional. Prospective employers, our partnership school leaders, and your potential pupils will be looking for you online.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use in your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study. Centre and practice-based sessions do require the use of a laptop (or alternative) to be able to fully engage during lectures and seminars. We do advise that a personal device is essential for this programme.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service for advice and guidance.

See the UWE webpage for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

International students

The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol, and they organise social events to help you adapt to your new environment.

Subject Pre-Programme Information

Please view the relevant subject-specific pre-programme information below:

Art and Design

Business

Computing

English

Geography

History

Maths

Modern Languages

PE

Science: Biology

Science: Chemistry

Science: Physics

All subjects are linked to specialist UWE Subject Tutors, who have prepared the resource above. Subject-specific aspects of our programme's provision are delivered by UWE Subject Tutors, who also provide assignment support and undertake placement observations.

Who to contact if you have questions

Programme leaders:

Terra Glowach via email at terra.glowach@uwe.ac.uk

Nicola Rew via email at nicola2.rew@uwe.ac.uk

Bursary-related queries: EDU.SPS@uwe.ac.uk

Admissions related queries: admissions@uwe.ac.uk

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026