

# Get ready for PGCE iQTS Secondary Physics (11-16)

I hope that you are looking forward to starting your online distance learning programme. As your Programme Leader, I warmly welcome you onto our **iQTS (PGCE) programme**.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us, this includes some key policy documentation for Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and gaining Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

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 iQTS (PGCE) programme.

**Karen Williams**  
Programme Lead

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We are looking forward to welcoming you on the week commencing **20 January 2025** when your course will start. During induction week you will be involved in a range of activities including:

- familiarisation with your programme and modules
- learning how to engage with online learning
- familiarisation with the university and facilities
- information about where to get help and assistance

Information about how to register: [Registration - Preparing and arrival | UWE Bristol](#)

## Know what to expect

This course is **100% online**. Most of your teaching is asynchronous and can be accessed at a time that is convenient for you. There is no official timetable, you can engage with the learning materials at times that fit around your professional commitments. In the induction of the programme, you will be assigned a UWE tutor. This person will arrange an introductory meeting, and they will be there to meet you at various points and will be able to answer questions as we go through the programme. These meetings will be arranged, and links provided through the announcements on the virtual learning environment, and you will be sent emails to your UWE email account.

Your programme is structured as follows:

- Each module is 30 credits and has four key blocks across the year.
- Each block is around 9 weeks in total.
- Content may include lectures, readings, and school-based tasks.

It might be useful to spread your study over the week to allow for reflection on tasks and please do read ahead as some tasks will take place in your school setting.

The course is designed for you to explore ideas in theory and practice, in your school/setting, so in some weeks the activities will involve you completing tasks in practice. This should be part of your daily activities, but it would be helpful if your Line Manager and mentor is aware of your requirements so that they are able to support you.

This course usually requires a minimum of 120 days and 20 days in ITaP's in schools.

### **Your programme for 2025/2026 includes the following modules:**

<b>Modules</b>
<b>Induction: start date</b> 20/01/2025
<b>Professional Studies</b> UTLGYC-30-M
<b>Curriculum Inquiry</b> UTLGYB-30-M
<b>International Practice</b> UTLGYD-30-3

## **Engage with your programme**

**We use key policy documents from the Department for Education (DfE) in England for this course. It will be a good idea to familiarise yourself with these policies ahead of the course:**

**ITT Core Content Framework- with notes for notes for international QTS**  
[Initial teacher training core content framework for iQTS - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-training-core-content-framework-for-iqts)

**Teachers' Standards**  
[International qualified teacher status Teachers' Standards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-qualified-teacher-status-teachers-standards)

### **Refresh your study skills**

If you are returning after a break or are new to study, it might be helpful for you to look at the '[Prepare for Study](#)' information which guides you on what to expect from studying at university.

- **Library support for distance learners**  
[Welcome - FET | academicskills.uwe.ac.uk](https://www.academicskills.uwe.ac.uk/welcome-fet)
- **Online learning: Advice and Guidance on how to make the most of studying online**  
[Online learning - Study skills | UWE Bristol](#)
- **Referencing and plagiarism**

[Welcome - How to reference and avoid plagiarism \(uwe.ac.uk\)](#)

- **Planning and structuring writing**  
[Introduction - How to plan and structure your writing \(uwe.ac.uk\)](#)
- **How to write critically (essential for master's modules)**  
[Introduction - How to write critically \(uwe.ac.uk\)](#)

## Rediscover your student self

### Get online

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. You might want to download the UWE Bristol mobile app - available on [Apple](#) and [Android](#), this allows you to access various services and information on your phone.

Information on IT services can be found at [IT Services - Study | UWE Bristol](#)

This includes important information to support any online learning at home. You can connect to the UWE network from home. They also provide a generic guidance on choosing IT equipment: [Choosing the right IT equipment for university - IT Services | UWE Bristol](#)

For this course, you should have access to the following software and equipment:

- A computer with Windows 10 /11 or Mac OSX 8.1 (or later).
- A headset or speakers and a microphone.
- Internet speeds for video conferencing (ie 10Mbps/2Mbps).

For support with any technical issues relating to course materials:

- **Contact: Education Tech Digital Team**
- **Email: [edutech@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:edutech@uwe.ac.uk)**

For any general IT issues:

- **Contact: IT Services**
- **Email: [itonline@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:itonline@uwe.ac.uk)** (copying in [edutech@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:edutech@uwe.ac.uk))

All students are provided with an Office365 account, which gives access to Outlook, Word, Excel, OneNote and PowerPoint, and 1TB of secure online storage.

Please note that UWE systems are configured for Windows although many of our students use Apple products or others.

Your coursework will be delivered via PebblePad.

Please note if you are joining from China: Recent accessibility tests were run on 3 telecom providers in China (Unicorn, Mobile and Telecom). There was only an issue (firewall blocking) accessing Blackboard on Telecom. Of course, the option to use Firefox as your default browser is available. This open-sourced browser has been thoroughly tested by Blackboard. Furthermore, Firefox is also available as a mobile app ([www.firefox.com.cn](http://www.firefox.com.cn)) and Blackboard app is also available through the Play Store if you are using an Android phone.

[https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Participant/Get\\_Started/Browser\\_Sup\\_port](https://help.blackboard.com/Collaborate/Ultra/Participant/Get_Started/Browser_Sup_port)

Before your course starts we suggest you test your network: [Speedtest by Ookla - The Global Broadband Speed Test](#) You should ensure you have access to a >10Mb line. Preferably a hard-line (ethernet) connection, as WiFi can be temperamental. Please be aware that other users on your WiFi will result in a reduction of the available bandwidth.

## Be prepared

### Access support

Check information on our [Disability webpages](#) so you know what actions you need to take. Alternatively you can use the [Disability Service Enquiry and Self-Help Form](#). [Contact Disability Service](#) and myself to let us know if you need any additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies.

### International students

Start to build friendships through the UWE Global Centre on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) and join in with their Global Cafe events; you don't have to be a registered student to take part. The dates and future topics are on the [UWE Bristol events calendar](#).

The University library provides [academic skills and advice](#) for international students. Once your registration as a UWE student is complete, you can sign up for [workshops](#). During your induction, we will tell you more about this support and show you where to find the information on your programme page so you can refer to it throughout the year.

## Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact me: **Karen Williams** via email at [karen8.williams@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:karen8.williams@uwe.ac.uk)

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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: January 2025

Last updated: Autumn 2024