

Initial Teacher Education (PGCE)

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Important information

The programme information published in this brochure was correct at the time of going to print (September 2022) and may be subject to change. Prospective students are advised to check the definitive programme information, including entry requirements, that is available on our website before making an application, to ensure that the programme meets their needs.

Welcome to the School of Education

The School of Education at Aberystwyth University has a long-established history of delivering innovative degree programmes for future teachers.

Since 1872, our research and practice-led approach has developed teachers who have inspired pupils from all concerns of the world to become successful.

The School of Education has developed a pioneering, integrated programme which responds to the needs of teacher education in the 21st century, and which educates and develops student teachers to teach across both the primary and secondary sectors. This emphasis on cross-phase teaching is in keeping with Curriculum for Wales 2022 and with the increasing number of 3-19 schools in Wales.

As well as primary teacher training, the School offers secondary Initial Teacher Education in the following subjects: Biology with Balanced Science, Chemistry with Balanced Science, Physics with Balanced Science, Drama, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages and Welsh. As Aberystwyth University is a bilingual institution, you can choose to follow your course in either Welsh or English. This will enable you to apply for the government’s Welsh-medium stimulus grant.

Upon successful completion of Initial Teacher Education at Aberystwyth University, you will

have developed sufficient experience of both primary and secondary schools, which will enhance your employability options.

For information on our primary and secondary Initial Teacher Education programmes, please visit our dedicated page. We also recommend that you come to visit us on one of our Open Days. For further information and dates, please visit our website.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries regarding our Initial Teacher Education courses or would like to speak to a member of staff regarding your options, please do get in touch with us!

I look forward to welcoming you to the School of Education.

Dr Andrew Davies
Director, School of Education





Why train with us?

The School of Education at Aberystwyth University has a long-established history of delivering innovative degree programmes for future teachers.

Since 1872, our research and practice-led approach has developed developed teachers who have inspired pupils in all concerns of the world to become successful.

These are just some of the reasons why you should consider Aberystwyth for your Initial Teacher Education Year:

- Our innovative Initial Teacher Education (PGCE) enables you to experience teacher training at both Primary and Secondary schools.
- All students who have met their entry requirements and have enrolled onto the course will be offered free University Accommodation for the eight weeks they are required to be on campus. This means that you will be able to live in Aberystwyth University campus accommodation for the duration of the university contact time (eight weeks), have access to all of our facilities (Students' Union, Library, free platinum Gym membership) and get to know your fellow course members who will be starting on their professional lives as teachers with you.
- You will be taught and mentored by practitioners who have a wealth of experience, knowledge and skills to instil in your formative year as student teachers.
- We are partnered with primary and secondary schools located across the Mid Wales corridor and North Wales. You can read more about our partners in this publication. Our partners also assist us with the interview process, so you will meet one of our partners during your PGCE interview.
- If you don't have a B grade GCSE in Mathematics, English or Welsh you will be eligible to sit an Equivalency test at the University. If you have a D grade or below in Science, we also offer you the opportunity to sit an equivalency paper for this subject.
- As part of the application procedure, all applicants will be required to sit entry tests which include Numeracy, Literacy (English) and a Welsh Literacy test (for those studying through the medium of Welsh only). Further information on the Entry Tests can be found on our dedicated page.
- Aberystwyth University is the only university in Wales to be awarded the University of the Year for Teaching Quality twice in consecutive years by the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide (2018 & 2019). It was also awarded Welsh University of the Year in 2020 and most recently University of the Year for Teaching Quality and Student Experience (2021).
- The University was also been awarded Gold for Postgraduate Studies in the 2019 What University Student Choice Awards.

Initial Teacher Education (PGCE)

Primary

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Primary (3-11 years)

PGCE (Primary)




The Primary PGCE course aims to give student teachers the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can engage all learners and lead learning across the primary age range. You will gain an understanding of children’s development and learning across the Foundation and upper primary age range.

Working across all Areas of Learning and Experience, you will work with skilled and experienced practitioners learning how to teach ambitious, capable and confident learners who are informed about the world beyond school. This is an innovative course, which will give you an enriched understanding of the progression of pupils into the next phases of their education through focused experiences in other phases of schooling.

Together with your fellow students on the secondary programmes, you will study the principles of effective pedagogy, assessment, lesson and curriculum planning. You will actively participate in learning, contributing to seminars, delivering presentations and engaging critically with research. During the University sessions, you will plan and deliver micro-lessons in preparation for the practical element of the course. You will study the full range of the primary curriculum with an opportunity to focus on specialist areas and phases in either the Foundation Phase or Upper Primary. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

In addition to specialist placements in primary schools, you will experience a short placement in a secondary school working to develop your understanding of the continuum of children’s learning.

Key facts

-  **Degree type:** PGCE
-  **Course code:** 3DHM
-  **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)



Biology with Balanced Science

PGCE (Secondary)




Biology is a natural science discipline that studies living things. In our evolving world, the knowledge of Biology is essential for everyone.

At Aberystwyth University, our PGCE Biology with Balanced Science degree will equip future teachers with the professional skills to develop learners’ understanding of Biology and its applications. Students on this course will be trained to teach ambitious and capable learners who are informed and confident about the world beyond school.

You will study the curriculum for Biology as part of the Science and Technology Area of Learning and Experience, and you will collaborate with students in other subject areas to develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be focus on the teaching of Biology as part of the single and double award GCSEs and Biology A level. All students in science subjects are trained to teach Balanced Science at Key Stage 3.

In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

-  **Degree type:** PGCE
-  **Course code:** 3DGP
-  **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

Chemistry with Balanced Science

PGCE (Secondary)




Chemistry is the scientific study of the properties and behaviour of matter. In natural science, that covers elements that make up matter to the compounds of atoms, molecules and ions: their composition, structure, properties, behaviour and the changes they undergo during a reaction with other substances.

At Aberystwyth University, our PGCE Chemistry with Balanced Science degree will equip future teachers with the professional skills to develop learners’ understanding of Chemistry and its applications.

You will study the curriculum for Chemistry as part of the Science and Technology Area of Learning and Experience, and you will collaborate with students in other subject areas to develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be focus on the teaching of Chemistry as part of the single and double award GCSEs and Chemistry A level. All students in science subjects are trained to teach Balanced Science at Key Stage 3.

In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

-  **Degree type:** PGCE
-  **Course code:** 3DGR
-  **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)



Drama




PGCE (Secondary)

Drama expresses human experience through a focus on role, action and tension, played out in time and space. As a Drama teacher, your role is to educate students to structure these elements and to use dramatic conventions, techniques and technologies to create imagined worlds. Working within the Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience, you will train to teach ambitious, capable and creative students who are ready to learn and use their acquired knowledge to lead fulfilling lives.

You will study the Drama curriculum within the Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience, and in collaboration with students in other subject areas you will develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be a focus on delivering practical, devised and text-based sessions throughout the secondary age range including GCSE Drama, AS/A level Drama and Performing Arts specifications.

In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

 Degree type: PGCE
 Course code: 3DGX
 Duration: 1 year (full-time)

English

PGCE (Secondary)




If you want to help pupils express themselves, to become critical thinkers and develop the vital skills they need to succeed, not just in English but also in other areas of education and beyond, then our PGCE English course at Aberystwyth is for you.

The English PGCE secondary course at Aberystwyth University aims to give student teachers the professional skills needed to develop learners' critical and creative response to language and literature. Working within the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience, you will train to teach ambitious and capable learners who are informed and confident about the world beyond school.

You will study the curriculum for English as part of the Languages, Learning and Communication Area of Learning and Experience, and you will collaborate with students in other subject areas to develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be a focus on the teaching of language and literature throughout the secondary age range including GCSE English and English Literature, and AS/A level Language and Literature specifications.

In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

 Degree type: PGCE
 Course code: 3DGZ
 Duration: 1 year (full-time)

Geography

PGCE (Secondary)




Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore both the physical properties of the Earth's surface and the human societies spread across it. As a Geography teacher, you will inspire a sense of awe, wonder and fascination about the world and draw on your own experiences to make Geography relevant and meaningful to the young people in your classroom.

At Aberystwyth University, our PGCE Geography degree will equip future teachers with the professional skills to develop the understanding of Geography and its applications.

The Geography PGCE course is concerned with theoretical and practical classroom approaches to the teaching of Geography throughout the secondary age range including GCSE and AS/A level. This involves examining a range of appropriate learning and teaching strategies in the varied classroom situations you will encounter. Through working collaboratively with students in other subjects areas across the curriculum you will develop a rigorous understanding of when and where particular activities might be appropriate and suitable in ensuring effective learning.

In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

 Degree type: PGCE
 Course code: 3DH3
 Duration: 1 year (full-time)

History

PGCE (Secondary)




History is a subject that introduces young learners to major events and developments of the past. As a teacher, your role is to help them to become critical thinkers, developing their understanding of our society and the people within it.

At Aberystwyth University, our History PGCE degree will equip future teachers with the professional skills to develop the understanding of History and its applications. Students on this course will be trained to teach ambitious and capable learners who are informed and confident about the world beyond school.

The History PGCE course is concerned with theoretical and practical classroom approaches to the teaching of history throughout the secondary age range including GCSE and AS/A level. This involves examining a range of appropriate learning and teaching strategies in the varied classroom situations you will encounter. Through working collaboratively with students in other subjects areas across the curriculum you will develop a rigorous understanding of when and where particular activities might be appropriate and suitable in ensuring effective learning.

In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

 Degree type: PGCE
 Course code: 3DH5
 Duration: 1 year (full-time)



Mathematics

PGCE (Secondary)




Math is all around us, in everything we do. Mathematics is the science that deals with the logic of shape, quantity and arrangement. There is a strong demand throughout the UK and the world for qualified teachers in Mathematics.

At Aberystwyth University, our PGCE in Mathematics is strongly aligned to the new curriculum in Wales, and upon completion of our course, you will be equipped with the range of teaching skills and knowledge needed for you to qualify as an effective teacher in Mathematics.

You will study the curriculum as part of the Mathematics and Numeracy Area of Learning and Experience, and you will collaborate with students in other subject areas to develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be a focus on the teaching of Mathematics throughout the secondary age range including Mathematics GCSE and AS/A level specifications. The ITE Partnership Group holds the Excellence Status, having gained the Mathematics Tribal Award, and has been cited for ERW best practice school status for delivering mathematics and numeracy across the curriculum. All schools are experienced at successfully supporting student teachers.

In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

-  **Degree type:** PGCE
-  **Course code:** 3DH7
-  **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

Modern Foreign Languages

(French/Spanish)




PGCE (Secondary)

The Modern Languages course will provide you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can develop learners' mastery and use of the foreign languages they are studying.

You can study one language or two languages during your Initial Teacher Education (PGCE). At the Aberystwyth ITE Partnership, you will be trained to teach your specialist modern language, or even a combination of languages. The course will involve the methodology of language teaching as applied to your specialism or specialisms, e.g. French and/or Spanish, Spanish and/or French. Working within the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience, you will train to teach ambitious and capable learners who are informed and confident about the world beyond school and the country under study. There will be a focus on the teaching of language throughout the secondary age range including GCSE French or Spanish, and AS/A level Modern Languages specifications.

In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

-  **Degree type:** PGCE
-  **Course code:** French 3DH9, Spanish 3DHF
-  **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

Physics with Balanced Science

PGCE (Secondary)




Physics is the natural science that studies matter, its fundamental constituents, its motion and behaviour through space and time, and the related entities of energy and force. Physics is one of the most fundamental scientific disciplines, with its main goal being to understand how the universe behaves.

At Aberystwyth University, our PGCE Physics with Balanced Science degree will equip future teachers with the professional skills to develop learners’ understanding of Physics and its applications. Students on this course will be trained to teach ambitious and capable learners who are informed and confident about the world beyond school.

You will study the curriculum for Physics as part of the Science and Technology Area of Learning and Experience, and you will collaborate with students in other subject areas to develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be focus on the teaching of Physics as part of the single and double award GCSEs and Physics A level. All students in science subjects are trained to teach Balanced Science at Key Stage 3.

In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

-  Degree type: PGCE
-  Course code: 3DGV
-  Duration: 1 year (full-time)

Welsh

(*only available in Welsh)

PGCE (Secondary)




The Welsh course will provide you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can develop learners’ ability to respond critically and creatively to language and literature. The aim is to nurture pupils to become confident speakers, keen readers and writers who will be able to express themselves clearly and concisely.

Working within the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience, you will collaborate with students in other subjects areas across the curriculum to develop a rigorous understanding of when and where particular activities might be appropriate and suitable in ensuring effective learning.

There will be a focus on the teaching of Welsh throughout the secondary age range including Welsh GCSE and AS/A level Welsh specifications, both as a first and second language.

In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

-  Degree type: PGCE
-  Course code: 3DHH*
-  Duration: 1 year (full-time)



Meet the Partners



Crickhowell High School

Crickhowell High School is a fully inclusive comprehensive school located in the beautiful and inspiring Brecon Beacons National Park, in the lovely town of Crickhowell.

Raising Achievement by Raising Expectations
/ Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau.

The school is recognised as a high achieving school with high-quality teaching and learning, featuring regularly in the top five hundred schools in the United Kingdom. A high percentage of students regularly achieve the Level Two Threshold (at least five grades A* - C at GCSE or equivalent) by the end of Key Stage 4 and students go on to achieve excellent results post 16. A recent Estyn Inspection noted: 'Crickhowell High School has a culture of high ambition that every pupil should achieve 'excellence through endeavour'. The school ensures that all students are supported to achieve through the highly effective care, support and guidance it provides. This has substantially positive benefits on the behaviour, wellbeing

and attitudes of its students. Senior leaders and governors have been very successful in ensuring that the school's vision, values and priorities are clearly understood by staff and students. The Leadership Team know the school's strengths and areas for development well and have clear strategies in place to make further improvements'.

We offer a very broad range of curriculum opportunities for all our students, delivered by a specialist team of highly qualified and dedicated staff. We work very hard to identify and support the individual learning needs of all our students and believe that no student will leave Crickhowell High School without a range of good qualifications. A rich menu of extra-curricular opportunities provide a very important aspect of our school ethos.

We also offer a range of vocational courses including some part time college provision. In addition to this many students attend twilight sessions after school when they have the chance to study a wide range of sporting, academic and creative options.



Ysgol Bro Gwaun

Ysgol Bro Gwaun is an 11-16, English medium secondary school, with significant use of Welsh. We offer subjects through the medium of English and Welsh, and are set on a beautiful site overlooking Fishguard Harbour, against the backdrop of the Preseli Hills. At present, there are 534 pupils on roll.

Pupils are from a broad social and cultural spectrum, which gives the school a vibrant atmosphere. The area has a complex

linguistic mix - the Welsh heartland in the Preseli Hills, Newport, Strumble and especially the Gwaun Valley, has retained much of its Welsh culture and language. As a consequence, both English and Welsh are used extensively throughout the school. Fishguard Bay has for centuries been an entry point to Britain for the Southern Irish and many Irish families have settled in the locality, giving the area an unique mixture of cultures.



Ysgol Gymunedol Plascrug

At Plascrug, we will ensure that each child thrives in our school, which puts children at the centre of our community. We believe that every pupil has the potential to make excellent progress in developing lifelong skills in a bilingual environment that is safe, caring and inspiring. We will give each child the best possible chance to succeed, celebrating with them each step of the way.

Plascrug Community Primary School is an LEA maintained School situated in the beautiful, coastal town of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. There are approximately 400 pupils at the school ranging from 3-11 years of age. Classes are divided into Year groups with parallel classes of mixed ability running throughout the school and class sizes vary

from 20 to 30 in number. The Nursery classes operate on a part time basis (a.m. / p.m.) for 3 year olds, and full time when they turn 4 years of age. Pupils enter mainstream Reception classes in the September after their 4th birthday.

The school community is a cosmopolitan one; approximately a quarter of our pupils are from countries overseas. In all, there are approximately 38 countries represented and 27 differing languages spoken at the school. We rejoice in the diversity of cultures and religions reflected at the school and in the harmony and friendship which develop among our children.



Ysgol Bro Teifi

Ysgol Bro Teifi is a bilingual school for 3-19 year olds maintained by Ceredigion local authority. The school opened as Ysgol Bro Teifi in September 2016 following the amalgamation of Ysgol Gyfun Dyffryn Teifi with Aberbanc, Pontsian, Coedybryn and Llandysul primary schools. It is the first Welsh-medium all through school to be built in Wales following a £ 29.5m investment by Ceredigion County Council and the Welsh Government and offers state-of-the-art learning facilities for all pupils.

There are currently 917 pupils at the school with 380 primary and 537 secondary school age, 98 of these in the sixth form. The school serves the communities of Llandysul and the surrounding area.



Welshpool High School

Welshpool High School is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive school, in Powys. It has 900 pupils on roll, including 160 in the sixth form. We are a caring and positive learning community, which aims to help every student to achieve success. Every student is encouraged to aim high and work hard towards the fulfilment of his or her ambitions and potential. This is reflected in our school motto:

Raising Achievement by Raising Expectations / Codi Cyrhaeddiad Trwy Godi Disgwyliadau

We believe we instil values and practices that enable students to be self-disciplined and focused on learning. We want students to aim high, develop independence as learners, and to be able to work cooperatively and

purposefully with peers and adults both individually and as part of a team. In terms of supporting this development, we view the positive partnership between home and school as essential. We are also a learning community that is determined to provide the best learning experiences for our students. We are responsive to the challenge of preparing our students for the needs of a changing world, and we are rigorous in developing a curriculum and teaching and learning methods to meet these needs. We endeavour to provide support and opportunity for students of all abilities through our curriculum, pastoral programmes and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.



Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth

Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth is the first designated Welsh school in Wales, founded in 1939 by Sir Ifan ab Owen Edwards. There were seven children in the school in the early days but now the school has grown to over 400 pupils.

The pupils come from the town of Aberystwyth and the surrounding rural areas. The school grew constantly during the 80s

and 90s as more and more parents saw value in their children having a Welsh education. There is a significant increase in the number of non-Welsh speaking parents who send their children to school to benefit from bilingualism.



Ceredigion Local Education Authority

Ceredigion Local Authority maintains 36 primary schools. About 25% of the Authority's primary schools have 50 pupils or fewer on roll. In most of these schools, Welsh is the main medium of the life and work of the school. At secondary level the Authority promotes 4 comprehensive schools, varying in size from 550 pupils to 1200 pupils. The Authority also maintains one 3-16 school and two 3-19 schools. These schools provide education for pupils from three years old to sixteen and nineteen years old, respectively. Approximately 9,500 pupils attend the Authority's schools.

In order to cater for children with special educational needs, the Authority has a wide range of provision, including specialist resource centres and behavioural units, some of which are attached to mainstream schools. In addition to these facilities, a range of specialist support staff assist in ensuring that, wherever possible, children with special needs are educated in mainstream schools.

In Ceredigion the Welsh Government funds a part-time (10 hours per week) early education place for all 3 year olds (also known as Foundation Phase Nursery). Places are available in nursery units attached to schools, playgroups or day nurseries registered for funding with the Authority. Funding is for 2 hours a day, 5 days per week (some voluntary settings may offer 2 hour sessions over 4 days). It is available for the three terms following the child's third birthday.

Ceredigion's Schools Service is based on the philosophy of offering lifelong learning opportunities for each member of the community. In co-operation with our partners, we attempt to provide youth activities, adult education, basic skills for adults, opportunities to learn Welsh, training and a number of community development projects. We believe that these opportunities contribute to developing the individual and forming an inclusive society within a bilingual Ceredigion.

The Schools Service employs in the region of 1,600 people and is the largest of the Local Authority's services with an annual budget of £63 million for 2019/2020.





Accommodation

All students following an Initial Teacher Education programme at Aberystwyth University will receive free accommodation.

University Accommodation will be available to all Initial Teacher Education students for the eight-week duration when students are required to be on the Aberystwyth University campus. The eight weeks are critical to your training and development before you enter your chosen school, where your training will develop further.

All Initial Teacher Education students will receive:

- self-catered accommodation, but if you prefer to eat cooked meals, you have plenty of choice on campus in one of our many restaurants
- free Platinum gym membership which will give you access to the fitness studio, classes and swimming pool
- access to the University Library and other facilities which include the Arts Centre and Students' Union to name a few.



Literacy and Numeracy Tests

As part of Aberystwyth University's interview procedure, all applicants will be required to sit the following tests:



- Literacy test (English: Writing and Comprehension)
- Literacy test (Welsh: for Welsh-medium applicants only)
- Numeracy

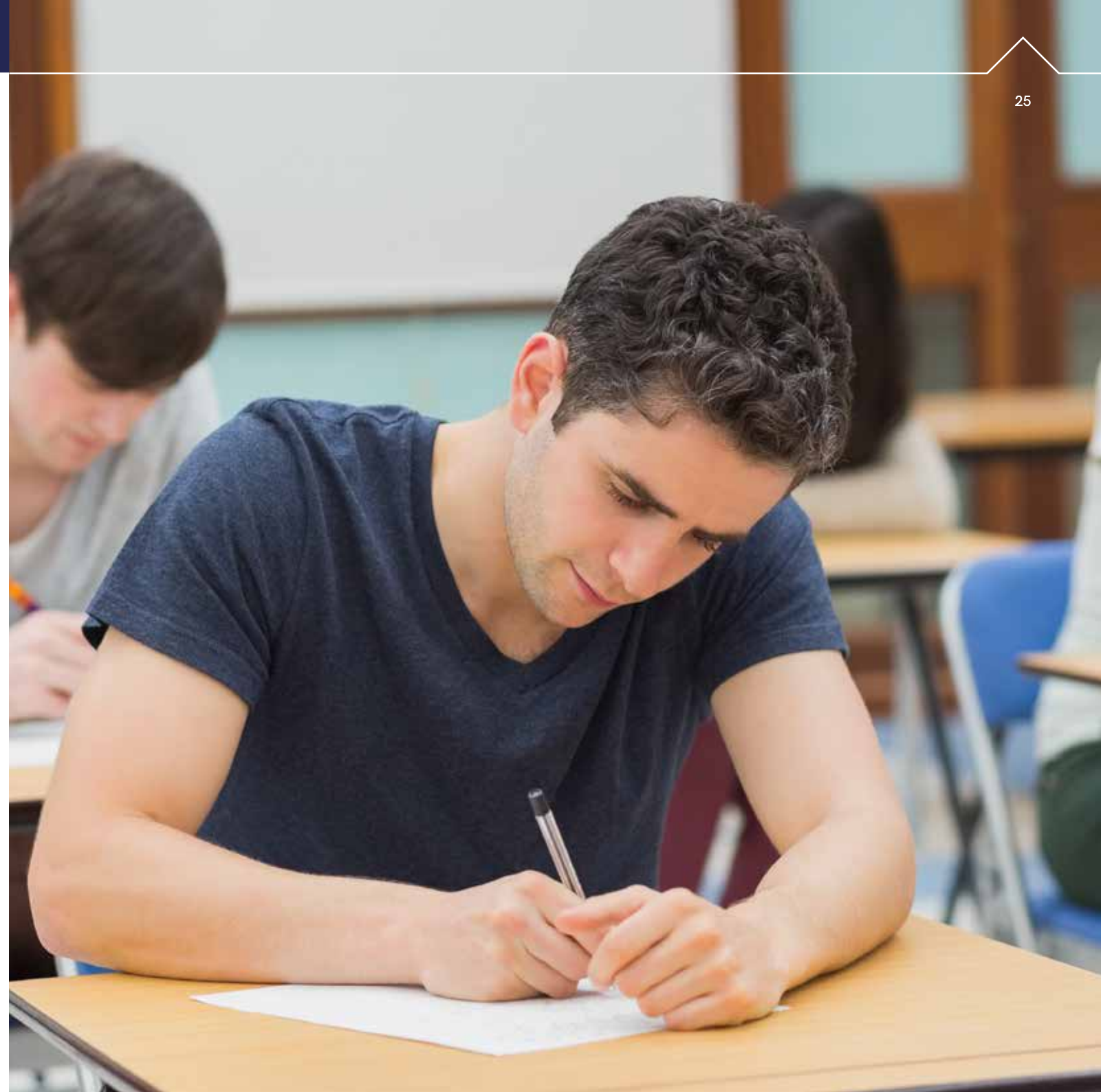
Applicants will sit the literacy and numeracy tests during the scheduled interview. You will receive details of your interview and the arrangements made for you to sit these tests upon applying. We have been awarded University of the Year for Teaching Quality twice in consecutive years by the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide (2018 & 2019). We were also awarded Welsh University of the Year in 2020 and most recently University of the Year for Teaching Quality and Student Experience (2021).

GCSE Equivalency Tests

PGCE applicants who do not meet the entry requirements for GCSE English, Welsh, Maths and Science will be offered the opportunity to take an equivalency test. The tests are designed to meet the GCSE grade requirements for entry into Aberystwyth University's Initial Teaching Education courses only.

The process

- Make your application through UCAS in the usual way, ensuring that you select the box 'Equivalence test applied for'.
- If your application meets the other requirements of the course, you will be called for interview.
- If your interview is satisfactory, you will be offered the opportunity to take the necessary equivalency tests as a condition of your offer.
- To be eligible to take the exams, you must have replied, or intend to reply 'Firm'.
- The tests will take place at Aberystwyth University and you will be sent details of the date, a sample paper and further guidance.
- Candidates must indicate whether they wish to take the Maths and Science tests in English or in Welsh.
- Applicants are allowed to retake the test once during the year in which they apply.



Frequently Asked Questions

Will I be able to arrange my own school placements?

Partnership schools develop and deliver the programmes in collaboration with the University and understand the requirements for meeting Qualified Teacher Status. This means that you cannot arrange your own school placement and we will do this for you.

Would I be placed at a school where I have been before?

No, we would not usually place you in a school where you have any links including schools where you have studied, undertaken work experience or where a family member works or studies.

How many hours of class will there be? Can I work part-time?

The PGCE course is a very intensive professional programme of study. In the university setting you can expect to be in classes from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. During your professional teaching experiences, you will be expected to attend the school for the duration of the school day. You may also be asked to participate in your school's extra-curricular activities such as parents' evenings and staff meetings. Due to these long hours and the time recommended for preparation and reflection, it is not advisable to work elsewhere at the same time.



Research in the School of Education

The School of Education research focuses on three key areas:

1. Research in teaching, learning and pedagogy:

- How learners learn
- Subject knowledge and understanding
- ICT and learning
- Teachers and professional learning
- Curriculum development
- Assessment for learning
- Bilingual education.

2. Childhood Studies:

- How children develop and learn
- Gender studies
- Language acquisition and development
- Health and wellbeing
- Healthy schools
- Additional learning needs.

3. Educational policy:

- Partnership and collaboration in education
- Rural education
- Workforce development in education
- Leadership in education
- Community education
- National and local educational policy and the impact on small schools.





How to apply

You should apply for your PGCE programme online through the UCAS teacher training portal. The application process opens in mid to late October (Apply 1) each year.

In Apply 1 you will be able to apply for up to three different courses/providers. Apply 1 usually closes in January (although some providers may close earlier) and this is when you have an opportunity to apply through 'Apply 2'. During 'Apply 2', you can only apply for one course/provider at a time.

Keep in mind the following tips when you are preparing your application.

- Take your time over your application and don't rush. As you are applying to be a teacher it is important that you ensure everything is completed correctly. You can save your work as you go through the application form and return to it at any time.
- Contact your referees in advance so that they have time to prepare a reference - your application cannot be submitted to us by UCAS until your references have been received.
- In your personal statement try to demonstrate your commitment to becoming a teacher; your passion for your subject, and the knowledge and understanding you have gained about education through any classroom experience that you have undertaken.
- Some courses, especially PGCE Primary are very popular and places can be filled quickly - often within the Apply 1 window. For this reason, we would advise you to make your application as early as possible.
- Once you have submitted your application, the process moves along quickly. All providers must respond with a decision within 40 working days and if you are offered a place you will have ten working days to consider the offer and make a decision.
- You will then be invited to an interview where you will be required to take a short literacy and numeracy test and attend a one-to-one interview. Interview day is also an opportunity to meet tutors, see the teaching setting and find out more about the programme. At the School of Education, we conduct our interviews with our partner schools, this is a great opportunity for you to meet your future mentors.

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University 2022.

