

Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

Primary and Secondary teacher education courses





Joining our School of Education

I've found life as a teacher gives you the opportunity to make a positive difference to the lives of children and young people. It is a varied, challenging and engaging profession, where each day is different.

Whether you join our Primary or Secondary routes, we will help you to become a confident and effective teacher by the end of the time you are with us. During the course, you will:

- find out more about how children and young people learn
- build a repertoire of ways of teaching successfully
- broaden your knowledge of relevant curriculum subjects
- enjoy using your imagination, creativity and logic
- become part of a brilliant and supportive community of new teachers

We have close partnerships with schools and colleges across the region, so we can offer a wide range of school experiences. Once you qualify and start work, we will welcome you back, too – with an interesting range of short courses and accredited study if you want to go further.

Our School of Education has students and staff from across the world, engaged in a wide range of postgraduate study and research. This guide will help you understand the experience we offer at the University of Leicester. We hope you will want to join us.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Rose Griffiths".

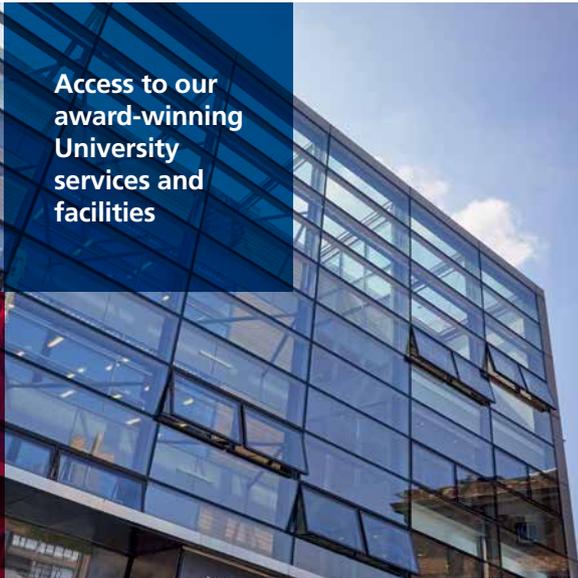
PROFESSOR ROSE GRIFFITHS
Head of the School of Education



Be a part of the University's vibrant student community



Dedicated and personalised support network



Access to our award-winning University services and facilities



Over 150 partner schools across the East Midlands



Internationally recognised qualification offering Masters credits and Qualified Teacher Status



Expert tutors with wide-ranging experience of teaching in schools themselves



Practical teaching placements in schools reflecting the cultural diversity of the city and region



“ Trainees and Newly Qualified Teachers are greatly prized by local and regional schools ”

Latest Ofsted inspection

Becoming a teacher

What routes into teaching are available?

There are three major types of training: University-led; School Direct; and School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT).

We offer both university-led and school-led Primary and Secondary PGCE courses. Whichever route you choose, you'll spend the same amount of time on school placements and, in many cases for 'School Direct', attending the same taught sessions at the University.

The main difference between University-led and School Direct courses is in the way school placements are managed. University-led placements draw from a larger number of schools, and they can focus on giving you a diverse range of teaching experiences. School Direct placements are arranged by a lead school and usually take place within a smaller group of partner schools.

Within a SCITT, both your placements and your taught sessions will be managed by the lead school and your assignments will be overseen by the University. Some academic sessions will be led by the SCITT, others are run by the University and led by the same tutors who teach on the other two routes.

“ It felt like we were all in it together, which allowed us to share our experiences and support one another. I also found the tutors to be really supportive and able to offer sound advice and direction. ”

JOE GILFORD

Former PGCE student, now Assistant Principal.

What does a University-led PGCE course involve?

Teaching experience in schools

Two-thirds of your course is devoted to getting practical teaching experience in schools. We work in partnership with more than 200 schools across the East Midlands, in city, suburban and rural locations. Each teaching experience is phased so that you gradually increase the time you spend teaching each week, as you become more confident.

Developing your professional skills and subject knowledge

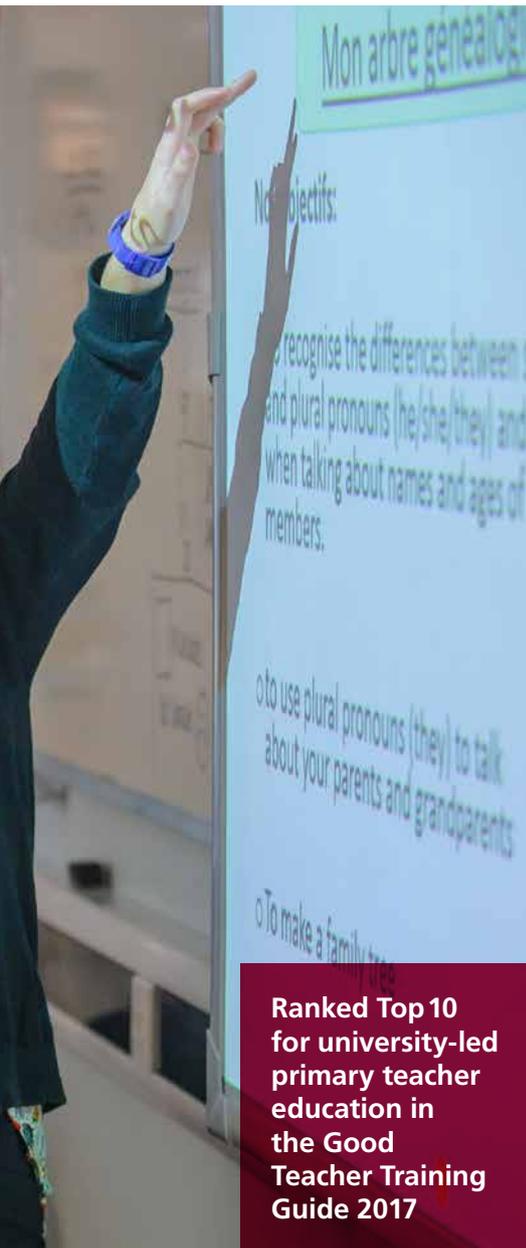
One-third of your time is spent at the University in interactive taught sessions. These introduce you to the principles and theory of good teaching, develop your chosen specialisms and prepare you for your placements. The sessions are varied and thought-provoking and delivered by expert tutors. All of our PGCE tutors have been teachers themselves, including many as senior staff and head teachers.

Support during your course

You will be supported by a personal tutor who will see you regularly across the year. On each of your teaching placements, you will have a school-based mentor as well as a University visiting tutor; together, it's their role to ensure you have the best possible experience. Throughout your course, you will also have regular contact with other students studying the same areas as you – peer support that often continues into your first few years of teaching.



**Over 4,000
teachers have
trained with
us in the last
15 years**



**Ranked Top 10
for university-led
primary teacher
education in
the Good
Teacher Training
Guide 2017**

How will I be assessed?

Your development will be followed through the course by your tutors and mentors and you will gather a folder of evidence to show that you have met the teachers' standards. We'll also ask you to complete written assignments, drawing on your practical teaching experience. These can contribute to us awarding you Master's level credits, which you can use in the next few years towards a full Master's degree if you wish.

The Primary PGCE Course at the University of Leicester

Choose one of these options:

- **Lower Primary** (ages 3 to 7)
- **Primary** (ages 5 to 11)
- **Primary with Mathematics** (ages 5 to 11)

Our Outstanding Primary course will give you the chance to work across all National Curriculum areas and the Early Years curriculum for under-5s.

“ I knew I would need to learn more about some subjects - but I hadn't realised how interesting and enjoyable that would be. ”

PRIMARY PGCE STUDENT



The Secondary PGCE Course at the University of Leicester

Teach your chosen subject across the entire 11 to 18 age range:

- **English**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Mathematics**
- **Modern Languages**
- **Religious Education**
- **Science**
- **Social Science**

In **Modern Languages**, you may choose French; French with Spanish, German or Italian; or Spanish with French.

For **Science**, you can follow Biology, Chemistry or Physics, each with Core Science; or Physics with Mathematics and Core Science.

You will spend some of your time in the University in your subject-focused group, and some in mixed groups across all subject areas.

“ I know I'll never stop learning - that's part of the attraction of becoming a teacher. The PGCE has given me a really solid framework for developing my skills and my future career. ”

DAN LINTELL

Former PGCE student, now secondary teacher

Testimonials



“ If I could sum up my experience on the course in three words? Rewarding. Enlightening. Stimulating! ”

RAHUL KHUNTI
Former PGCE student, now teaching

“ The best moments come when you see the real difference you make to the lives of others. ”

NIK FOSTER
Former PGCE student, now headteacher



“ The University tutors possess such a wealth of knowledge - it's been invaluable! ”

KIERAN MATTHEWS
Former PGCE student, now teaching



What's next?

Prepare

You can find all the information you will need about the Leicester PGCE online at: www.le.ac.uk/pgce

You could also attend one of our open evenings. They're a great opportunity to chat to our tutors and partners as well as to find out what we look for in applications.

Find out more at: www.le.ac.uk/pgce-events

Apply

- Applications for teacher training courses are made online through UCAS Teacher Training (UCASTT) at www.ucas.com/teacher-training.
- Arrange references and let people know you're applying and may need their support.
- Write a personal statement – this is your chance to stand out, so make it count!
- Select up to three preferred training providers. You can choose a mix of University and school-led options. Select **University of Leicester** for our university-led PGCE, or your choice of School Direct provider (the lead school) or school-centred initial teacher training (SCITT) provider for school-led routes.
- Submit your application.

For regular updates on life in the School of Education, join us on Twitter [@Leicester_Ed](https://twitter.com/Leicester_Ed)

Preparing for your interview

If your application is successful, we'll invite you to a selection day before deciding whether or not to offer you a place. We'll write to let you know what to expect on the day.

You'll need to think about the kind of things you'll say during the interview, such as why you want to be a teacher and the qualities and skills you can bring to teaching.



Get in touch

If you have a question about our courses or the application process, or just want to talk to someone about your options, our friendly and experienced PGCE teams are here to help.

Primary Team: E: primary.pgce@le.ac.uk / T: 0116 252 3677

Secondary Team: E: secondary.pgce@le.ac.uk / T: 0116 252 3676



This document was published in February 2018. The University of Leicester endeavours to ensure that the content of its prospectus, programme specification, website content and all other materials are complete and accurate. On occasion it may be necessary to make some alterations to particular aspects of a course or module, and where these are minor, for example altering the lecture timetable or location, then we will ensure that you have as much notice as possible of the change to ensure that the disruption to your studies is minimised. However, in exceptional circumstances it may be necessary for the University to cancel or change a programme or part of the specification more substantially. For example, due to the unavailability of key teaching staff, changes or developments in knowledge or teaching methods, the way in which assessment is carried out, or where a course or part of it is over-subscribed to the extent that the quality of teaching would be affected to the detriment of students. In these circumstances, we will contact you as soon as possible and in any event will give you 25 days written notice before the relevant change is due to take place. Where this occurs, we will also and in consultation with you, offer you an alternative course or programme (as appropriate) or the opportunity to cancel your contract with the University and obtain a refund of any advance payments that you have made. Full Terms and Conditions and Senate Regulations governing our teaching programmes can be found here: www.le.ac.uk/offer-terms.

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