

Training as a Secondary teacher

Secondary teaching will allow you to further develop the knowledge of your own chosen subject. Teaching the subject you love every day enables you to share your own passion and to inspire others.

You will spend the autumn and summer terms in your base school. This may well be the same school with whom you had your initial interview or a school nearby it. Your spring term will be spent within another one of our partner schools, usually within a different context, but always with a similar ethos.



Whilst you are training, you will spend four days a week at school. Every Wednesday will be spent either undertaking the academic element of the PGCE led by the University of Derby, or you will be at the CAT IoE, with your fellow trainees exploring the application of the theory behind those university led days during our Alliance Days.

Alliance Days, designed to complement the university sessions, are led by experienced teachers and focus on the core areas of teaching: behaviour management, pedagogy, curriculum, assessment and professional behaviours. They provide an opportunity both to learn from experts and to reflect, and potentially adapt, your own practice as a result.

As part of your training year, you will work with your own tutor group as a co-tutor. You will be encouraged to participate in extra curricular activities and house events. You may also find yourself taking part in school trips or residential visits.

Working in a secondary school provides ample opportunities to progress through your professional career. You can choose to develop your leadership skills along either a pastoral or a curriculum route. Whatever you decide, we are able to support you throughout your career development. Life as a secondary teacher is challenging, rewarding and you are shaping the futures of the next generation.

Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE)

The CAT IoE delivers bespoke SKEs in secondary Biology, Chemistry, Computing, Design and Technology, English, French, German, Maths, Religious Studies and Physics. If you would like to enhance your subject knowledge in these areas and you have SKE as part of your conditional offer, we can build your SKE course around your personal needs. A guide to length of SKEs is below.

Short 8 to 12 weeks for those who need to refresh subject knowledge

Medium 16 to 20 weeks for those with a related degree but require further support in chosen subject

Long 24 to 28 weeks for those with an unrelated degree and A Level in chosen subject or more than 5 years since they completed their degree.

The SKE you choose should be your decision and you should select the one that fits you.

Life as a beginning secondary teacher

We spoke to Josh, Business Studies, The Polesworth School

Why did you choose to teach?

The ability to shape the minds and characters of future generations is an incredible privilege and responsibility that I do not take lightly. Moreover, teaching is a constantly evolving profession that challenges me to continually learn and adapt. Each day brings new experiences, diverse perspectives, and fresh ideas from both students and colleagues.

The satisfaction that comes from witnessing the progress and achievements of my students is immeasurable. Additionally, teaching is a profession that promotes lifelong learning. It enables me to delve into various subjects, explore different teaching strategies, and stay updated with the latest educational research and advancements. This continuous learning process not only benefits my students but also keeps me intellectually stimulated and motivated.



What did you do before you chose to get into teaching?

I initially pursued a part-time career in retail while completing my studies, which taught me the importance of empathy, patience, and adaptability. Following my time in retail, I worked in the fast-moving consumer goods industry, collaborating with a diverse team of professionals. Witnessing the impact of consumer behaviour and the influence of marketing strategies highlighted the role of education in empowering individuals to make informed choices and fuelled my desire to contribute to society by becoming an educator and equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the complexities of the world.

What did your training in school look like?

My training incorporated a combination of coursework, practical placements, and enhanced opportunities. My training program offered an enhanced placement opportunity that allowed me to visit primary colleagues where I gained insights into the developmental stages of younger students. One aspect that distinguished my training was its school-based approach, which provided hands-on experience from day one. I was immersed in the school environment, working closely with students, teachers, and administrators. This approach allowed me to actively engage in the teaching and learning process, take on responsibilities gradually, and develop practical skills such as lesson planning, assessment, and differentiation. The school-based approach also fostered a collaborative and supportive atmosphere, where I could seek guidance from experienced educators and reflect on my teaching practice to continuously improve.

What other opportunities did you have outside the classroom?

One significant opportunity I had was becoming a program representative where I served as liaison between my fellow beginning teachers and the university. It allowed me to develop leadership and interpersonal skills, as well as a deep sense of responsibility towards my peers and the program. Engaging in extracurricular activities, educational visits and field trips played a vital role in broadening my knowledge. Exploring these venues with my students allowed me to create memorable learning experiences, reinforce academic concepts, and promote a sense of curiosity and wonder. It also provided an opportunity to interact with experts and professionals in various fields, offering insights and inspiring both my students and me.

How to Apply

1

Decide whether you want to teach primary or secondary students. If you are unsure then try and get some school experience.

Check whether or not you are eligible to train to teach. Do you have the right qualifications?

- An honours degree (2:2 or above)
- GCSE Maths, English (Science if you want to teach primary) at grade C/4 or higher.

If you are invited to interview, you will be asked to prepare a short teaching activity; and there will definitely be a formal interview. Prior to the interview, take time to familiarise yourself with the National Curriculum and the latest version of Keeping Children Safe in Education as well as looking at the school's safeguarding and behaviour policies. It may become clear at the point of interview that you need to

increase your subject knowledge. If this isn't brought up and you think you would benefit from a SKE course, then do mention it at interview.

3

Apply for your course. You can find our courses on the Get Into Teaching Site.

www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses. Or scan the QR code below.

You can apply from October all the way until the end of June. Places are allocated as the year progresses, and our courses remain open until they are full. Please apply as soon as you are ready rather than risk the course closing. **Our code is 17B.**

Congratulations! You have an offer!

Keep in touch with the department or school in which you will be teaching and take advantage of any opportunity to visit and meet the colleagues with whom you will be working.

The university will be in touch with you regarding induction, vetting checks and all of your next steps, and we'll see you on the first day of the autumn term in September.

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Anisa, Maths 2023



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