

## Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Early Years) (PGCE)

PgCert

This intensive one year course is designed for graduates wishing to become highly committed and creative professionals working with children aged three to seven years.

### Course content

This intensive one-year course is designed for graduates wishing to become highly committed and creative professionals working with children aged three to seven years.

The course supports trainees in developing the skills, knowledge and understanding required to demonstrate the teachers standards for teaching required by the Department for Education (Teaching Agency).

On successful completion, trainees are recommended for and awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

Teaching approaches are highly interactive, being delivered by a team of tutors with expertise in both the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and at primary level. The course prepares trainees to become teachers of the EYFS and the National Curriculum at Key Stage 1.

Trainees will also study professional issues including organisation, the role of play in learning, behaviour management, planning, assessment, equal opportunities, inclusion, parent partnership and working with other agencies.

The course contains two distinct strands; professional and academic, with two additional modules at Masters level 7. Trainees will work on both strands and if successful will receive a Postgraduate Certificate in Education with QTS and 60 credits towards an MA in Education.

A substantial part of the course will be spent in partner settings and schools, which will enable trainees to develop capability in practical teaching in a range of educational contexts. Indeed, by the end of the course, the student will have had different experiences across three different key stages.



Ofsted  
Outstanding  
2009|2010

### Course level

Postgraduate

### Modes of study

Full time

### Length of study

One year full-time

### School

School of Education

### Location

Park Campus

### Course contact

[study@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:study@northampton.ac.uk)

#### Avenue Campus

St George's Avenue  
Northampton  
NN2 6JD

#### Park Campus

Boughton Green Road  
Northampton  
NN2 7AL

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During the year there are three special curriculum weeks when the student will study a topic in depth. These include performance arts, the outdoor curriculum and inclusion.

## Typical modules

The course comprises of four major professional modules studied at level 6 and two modules at level 7.

The level 6 modules focus on:

- Core subjects and Early Years Pedagogy and Practice - including Mathematics, English, Science and ICT and aspects of effective early years practice
- Foundation Subjects and Early Years Foundation Stage Studies - includes History, Geography, Art, Music, Design Technology and the areas of learning and development of the EYFS
- Professional Studies
- School Experience

The level 7 modules are:

- MA module 2 - Classroom/Setting-based Research
- MA module 1 - Teaching and Learning

## Types of assessment

Assessment is continuous and includes written assignments and practical teaching. Partner schools share the responsibility for assessment.

## Entry requirements

Applicants must hold an honours degree from a UK university (or equivalent) and whenever possible the classification should be a 2:1 or 1, although other strong candidates may be accepted.

Evidence of a minimum of five days in a Key Stage 1 setting and five days in an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) setting with children aged three to five years is expected, prior to admission.

GCSE passes at grade C or above in Mathematics,

English and Science are required by all candidates.

A good range of GCSE passes (or other qualifications and experience) is also required.

There is an interview to explore the candidate's suitability for teaching. CRB checks are undertaken.

## Important update for applicants

### QTS Skills Tests

There is a number of changes to the skill tests which have come into effect from the Department for Education (DfE).

If you are thinking of applying for an Initial Teacher Training (ITT) programme which starts from September 2013, you will be required to have passed the DfE's skills tests in numeracy and literacy before you start the course.

You will be expected to pass both tests before attending an interview, however you will not be eligible to [register and book the skills tests](#) until after you have submitted an application for an ITT programme.

## Application notes

Direct application to Graduate Teacher Training Registry at [www.gttr.ac.uk](http://www.gttr.ac.uk) from 1 September 2012 for commencing September 2013.

## Career opportunities

Trainees qualify to practise across the three to seven age range, thus giving them access to a teaching career in early years' settings and primary schools. The PGCE course has excellent employment success among its graduates.

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