



**Durham**  
**University**

School of Education

# **PGCE (Secondary)**

**Information for Applicants**  
**2008/09**



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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information contained in these pages, errors and omission may occur from time to time. All information is subject to change and may be superseded. The School of Education does not accept liability for decisions made on the basis of unconfirmed information. Please refer to Department for latest information.

## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the PGCE Secondary course at Durham University, School of Education.

The PGCE Secondary course is the first phase of a career-long process of personal and professional development, which will equip you to become a secondary school teacher. The PGCE Secondary course is a course in Initial Teacher Training which is accredited by the DfES, the successful completion of which will accord you a Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

The PGCE Secondary course is founded on the belief that understanding how children learn and the skills that successful teachers need are acquired through a combination of theory, practice and reflection. At Durham University, professional development takes place in a dynamic environment in which critical self-analysis is encouraged alongside a willingness to collaborate with, and learn from, others.

The Durham PGCE Secondary course has been developed in partnership with schools, and offers a strong practical element with student teachers spending nearly two-thirds of their time in school. University and school-based work is fully integrated enabling us to offer a course that is responsive to the very latest in educational thinking and practice. Students on the course explore ways to develop an understanding of the values and issues which underpin education, whatever the subject. In this way, knowledge of pupils in school, their concerns and needs helps our teachers create an environment in which it is possible to offer a motivating and imaginative path to learning.



## **What are the Advantages of the Course at Durham University?**

- Durham University is one of the leading universities in the country for both teaching and research.
- We provide a good quality, highly rewarding course, which is highly regarded by OFSTED.
- We provide the opportunity to undertake school-based work in excellent partnership schools across the whole region.
- Our PGCE Secondary course is regarded highly in schools and, as a result, our graduates have excellent job prospects both within the region and nationally.
- The MA with QTS programme provides the opportunity (subject to satisfactory assessment grades) to transfer to the second year of the MA with QTS, enabling you to gain an MA early in your professional development.

## **Main course elements/ structure**

Each student on the course specialises in one of the subjects listed overleaf. Subject pedagogy is explored in curriculum groups, examining techniques for making each subject accessible and stimulating in a classroom environment.

There are two modules related to the QTS Standards ‘Qualifying for Success’. The first module in the autumn term is related to those classroom-based issues such as the psychology of learning, the law, curriculum groups, examining techniques for making each subject accessible and stimulating in a classroom environment.

The second module, in the spring term, is related to the wider school community and covers issues such as inclusion, citizenship, lifelong learning and working with other education professionals, and is taught in a similar pattern to module 1.

The above modules both contribute and respond to students’ experience during weekly visits to schools, where there is a progression from observation, structured activities and group work to whole class work. The block practices in the Autumn and Spring allow for practical opportunities for full professional development and make up a further two modules.

There is an opportunity to explore, in a more theoretical way, the issues to do with teaching and learning through lectures and mixed seminar groups during the module taught as a conference week before or after Christmas. In addition to covering QTS standards this module will enable assessment work to be carried forward to the MA QTS Year 2 option (see later section).

### **Subjects Available:**

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

### **Partnership Schools**

The Durham University Partnership has been developed over many years and represents an established relationship between local schools and Durham University. There are over 100 schools in the Partnership covering a wide geographical area:

- 11 – 16 comprehensive schools, rural and urban
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- Specialist subject colleges (e.g. language, science, business and enterprise)
- City Academies
- Faith schools (e.g. Roman Catholic, Church of England voluntary aided)
- Independent schools, both single sex and mixed

The placement of students into schools is the responsibility of the Partnership Office in consultation with the subject tutor. In the diagnostic practice the main factor in placing a student is logistical whilst, for the main practice, a more careful matching takes place to ensure the needs of the student are met. We try to accommodate student requests when possible, but cannot guarantee anything.

## **Training Schools**

The Partnership is enhanced by the relationship we have with ‘Training School’ schemes in the area. A summary of these schemes is presented here and brochures giving further details are enclosed. These schemes offer a variation to the standard school-based training towards the QTS Standards. Placement into these schemes is done in consultation with the Partnership Office, the training school managers and subject tutors. If you are particularly interested in joining one of these schemes please indicate on the enclosed form, which should be returned to the Partnership Office.

**Darlington L.A.** All schools in Darlington (about 20 miles from Durham) take part in this scheme. Students have all of their school experiences in schools in the town: primary experience, two secondary schools, 6<sup>th</sup> form and Further Education. Extra training sessions take place centrally in Darlington.

**Framwellgate School** This school is in a Durham city suburb and has Science College status. Two separate cohorts of students will attend, one for each practice. Pairs of students work together in a variety of ways in subjects and enhanced training sessions take place throughout the year.

**Stockton L.A.** This is the newest of our training partnership schemes and operates in a similar way to that based in Darlington.

## **What makes the Durham course distinctive?**

The opportunity to start a Masters degree in Education is an attraction to many students. In 2000 the School of Education introduced an innovative Master’s degree in Education which carries with it Qualified Teacher Status. The programme comprises one year of full time study (the PGCE year discussed in this booklet) plus one or two years of part-time study (the first years of your teaching career).

The first year of the MA QTS degree runs concurrently with the PGCE (Secondary) and students have the opportunity to transfer from the PGCE course to the MA QTS course at the end of the PGCE year; subject to satisfactory assessment grades. In order to earn the credits, a number of special criteria must be met. For example, PGCE students assessed work

must be marked against the academic scale for higher degree programmes. For progression to Year 2 of the MA programme, a minimum pass mark of 50% on all assignments must be gained. Students will be asked to indicate their interest in this route during the year. From Year 2 onwards, the MA is a part-time course. The teaching usually takes place at weekends in Durham, providing the opportunity for students to continue their professional development in the early years of their career.

The Durham PGCE offers a highly supportive learning environment, in which tutorial support is given by a curriculum tutor, and in school, mentoring is provided by both general and subject tutors.

Subject tutorials support students' exploration of the pedagogy of their own subject. The school tutors provide help and guidance to the student in school and provide another view point – that of working professionals, who share the immediate priorities, concerns and experiences of the classroom teacher

### **Opportunities for training/ professional development**

We have always welcomed student teachers from all walks of life, both those changing career, as well as those who have recently graduated.

The diversity of the North East region enables Durham to offer students professional training in a range of environments, and types of school. We have an established partnership, and long-standing relationship, with schools throughout the region. Our students have the opportunity to train in schools from small towns of rural County Durham to the urban environments of Darlington and Sunderland and industrial conurbation of Teesside.

The excellence of the course and the School of Education's national reputation as a centre of teacher education ensure that graduates from our PGCE have excellent employment prospects nationwide. Whoever you are, if you have enthusiasm for your subject, and a desire to pass on that enthusiasm to a new generation of young people, we want to hear from you.

Make **YOUR** profession secondary education!

## About the City and the University

Durham is a beautiful medieval city with the largest Romanesque Cathedral in Europe. It is a *World Heritage Site*, situated at the centre of a triangle taking in Edinburgh to the North, York to the South and the Lake District to the West, whilst to the East is the largely unspoilt Northumbrian coastline. Durham is a small city with a well-integrated, friendly academic community, which helps students acclimatise to their new environment.

Durham University was founded in 1832 and is the oldest in England after Oxford and Cambridge. Durham was named the 2005 *University of the Year* by the prestigious national paper, The Sunday Times. It is a collegiate university, with sixteen colleges and one society. All full-time students are required to be a member of a College. Colleges can provide social facilities and the opportunity to mix with other students. Indeed, it is the membership of a College which makes the Durham experience unique.

You will have arrived at the PGCE Secondary course by successfully completing an undergraduate degree programme (or equivalent) at this or another recognised University.

As a student at Durham you will need to apply to a college. If you have obtained your degree at Durham, there is no need to change college. The following section about the collegiate system of the University will be of use to new students to Durham:

### The Colleges:

The College you join will advise you about accommodation, if you require it. Please note that if you do want to live in College, rooms are allocated to undergraduate students before postgraduate students. The exception to this is Ustinov College, which is a college exclusively for postgraduate students.

Much has been made of the beauty of the Durham Colleges, and the high standards of their varied architectural styles. But the real differences lie in the special and highly individual characters. It will also provide you with social facilities and offer the opportunity to mix with other postgraduate students and staff.



In order to find out more information about the individual Colleges, please visit the website at: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/colleges.htm>

When you have made your choice, contact the College Admissions Office and ask to be considered for membership.

If you do require accommodation, and your College of choice does not have any free rooms, the University of Durham Students' Union Accommodation Office is an excellent source of advice, providing information on private sector rental properties. For further details please contact:

The Accommodation Office  
Durham University Students' Union  
New Elvet, Durham, DH1 3AN  
Telephone: 0191 334 1770; E-mail: [houses@dsu.org.uk](mailto:houses@dsu.org.uk)

## About the School of Education



The School of Education is a thriving and exciting centre of professional development and research for teachers and others involved in education from early years to higher education. The School's rating in the last Research Assessment Exercise in 2001 was 5 (on a 5 point scale) which reflects an international excellence in the

research of School of Education staff.

The School today has the versatility made possible by the resources of a large department with full time academic staff of fifty and a student body of well over a thousand full-time and part-time students. The School is responsible for courses in educational studies, initial teacher education and for diverse full-time and part-time programmes leading to post-graduate qualifications at Certificate, Masters and Doctoral levels.

The main building of the School occupies a magnificent site, in spacious and well laid out grounds, on a south-facing slope above the River Wear, with superb views of the Cathedral and Castle. The buildings include special provision for information technology, art and design, music, science and physical education. The School of Education has links with several institutions in Europe, North America, South America and Asia and participates in student and staff exchanges. Many of the academic staff have earned international reputations for their teaching and research.

The Head of Department is currently Professor Lynn Newton. A full staff list is available on the School of Education website:

[www.dur.ac.uk/education](http://www.dur.ac.uk/education)

## **The School of Education Library**

The University Library's Education Section is on the ground floor of the main building of the School of Education in Durham, and provides specialised library services in support of students' coursework and teaching. The Education Library is made up of some 60,000 books, pamphlets, theses, DFES, OFSTED and National Curriculum documents, 250 periodical titles as well as non-book material such as audio cassettes and videos.

Services include loans, inter-library loans, short loans of popular texts and photocopying, information and bibliographic services are provided with staff readily available to help students with their enquiries. On-line catalogue and circulation services are available and bibliographic information is also accessible electronically and in CD-ROM form. Audio and video playback facilities are provided. In addition, all students are entitled to use the main University Library, which has a wide variety of facilities and services

## Entry Requirements

Candidates must possess GCSE (Grades A-C) or GCE 'O' level passes in both English Language and Mathematics, or equivalent qualifications at the time of joining the course.

Students who do not already possess GCSE / GCE Mathematics may make arrangements with the School of Education to sit a special test in this subject. This would normally be taken after a firm offer of a place on the course.

We would normally expect at least 50% of a student's degree to be relevant to the chosen main teaching subject. Music requires a keyboard qualification to at least Grade VI.

## Fees and Finance

Tuition fees are paid to your Higher Education Institution in order to cover the cost of teaching and university resources.

Prospective students should note that it is **YOUR** responsibility to check out your eligibility for funding, grants and awards. The University cannot be held responsible for any funding problems you may encounter.

The cost of tuition for British citizens and citizens of the European Economic Area (EEA) is £3070 for the academic year 2007-2008 (fee's for 2008/09 to be confirmed).

British students may be eligible to receive up to £2700 maintenance grant, of which £1200 is non means tested and the remaining £1500 is means tested according to earnings. PGCE students from other EU countries are not entitled to receive non means tested maintenance grants or maintenance loans (although they may be entitled to fees loans).

You can obtain an application form (PN1) by:

- Downloading one from [www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk)
- Submitting an application form online at the above website

- Asking for Form PN1 and accompanying guidance from your Local Authority (LA)

The application process is explained at:

<http://www.studentsupportdirect.co.uk>

If you are an International student<sup>1</sup> you will need to pay the tuition fees either yourself or by sponsorship. These are approximately £9,200 for 2007/8 and are paid directly to the University on registration.

Further information on determining your fee status can be found at:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/international-students>

If you are unsure whether you qualify for government funded tuition you will need to contact the Teaching Information Line (Tel: 0845 6000991).

## **Training Salary**

Some PGCE trainees are eligible for a training salary.

### **Am I eligible?**

If you are a British or EEA citizen who is eligible for government funded tuition.

### **How much is the training salary?**

£6000 for History, Geography, English and P.E. and £9000 for Maths, Science, MFL, R.E. and Music. This is paid in nine monthly instalments, October to June, which works out at approximately £660 and £1000 per month, respectively.

### **How?**

Through your initial teacher training provider. You are not required to make an application for a training salary; if you are eligible you will automatically become part of the system when you register on the PGCE course at the beginning of term. The School of Education will make arrangements for you to receive a monthly cheque, which will be sent to your term time address, unless otherwise specified.

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<sup>1</sup> An International student is defined as a student who is not a citizen of the EEA.

Useful websites are:

[www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

[www.useyourheadteach.gov.uk](http://www.useyourheadteach.gov.uk)

## How to Apply

- The School of Education is committed to equality of opportunity for all. We value and welcome diversity, and positively encourage applications from people of all social, geographical and ethnic backgrounds. If you have any questions, please contact the PGCE support office (tel: 0191 334 8406/ 8316) or the Course Leader (tel: 0191 334 0188).
- Application forms for the PGCE are available on-line through the Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR) which acts as a clearing house for all admission to the PGCE course. Visit their website: <http://www.gttr.ac.uk>

Graduate Teacher Training Registry  
Rosehill  
New Barn Lane  
Cheltenham  
GL53 3LZ

Tel: 0870 1122205

or visit their website: <http://www.gttr.ac.uk>

- Forms are available from mid-September, and should be completed on-line.
- The School of Education considers applications in the order in which the forms are received and early application is advisable.
- Admittance to the course is by interview. Interviews are offered on the basis of the information provided on the GTTR form.
- Following a successful application, applicants will be required to undergo a Home Area School Experience during the period June to September preceding the course. This should take place in your home locality for a period of two weeks. This forms an integral part of the

course and advice will be given to successful candidates on how to approach their Local Education Authority in this regard.

### **Further Information**

Telephone: (0191) 334 8406 / 334 8316

Write to: PGCE Office  
Durham University  
School of Education  
Leazes Road  
Durham, DH1 1TA

Visit our website: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/education>