



## PGCE with QTS Frequently Asked Questions

### **Must I be employed by a school?**

Yes.

### **How many hours a week does it take?**

Four to six hours per week.

### **Can I do it in my spare time?**

Yes, but you need to be employed by a school and be in the role of a teacher with sole responsibility for full size classes for a minimum of 12 hours per week for the PGCE with QTS course, and 10 hours for the IPGCE.

### **Do I have to come to the university?**

Yes, but only 8 days (in 2021) and none if you are abroad for the IPGCE.

### **Can I split the second placement into 2-3 schools?**

No, your placement must be in one school, but it can be split into 1-week blocks.

### **Does the University of Buckingham arrange the Second School Placement?**

No, trainees and their schools are responsible for arranging placements local to themselves.

### **Can I do two online courses at the same time?**

Yes. However, we advise against completing a PGCE alongside other study due to the workload involved.

### **Can I complete the IPGCE/PGCE as a teaching assistant?**

No, you must be working in the role of an unqualified teacher with sole responsibility for your classes.

### **How many assignments are completed throughout the year?**

Three assignments of between 2,500-3,000 words are completed as part of the course. Optional topics are detailed in the course handbook. All assignments are submitted via the VLE (Moodle).

**What is the difference between the PGCE with QTS and the Independent/International PGCE (IPGCE)?** The PGCE with QTS accredits candidates as a qualified teacher with eligibility to teach in the state-maintained sector. Candidates are eligible to apply for the course if they teach (or are due to teach) in a state-maintained or independent school in

England. A minimum 3-week second school placement is a requirement of the course.

The Independent/International PGCE is a recognised formal teaching qualification in the independent school sector in the UK and overseas. There is no requirement to undertake a second school placement on this course. This course does not award QTS.

### **Can I enrol on the PGCE with QTS course if I am in a school outside England?**

No, however, you may be eligible for the IPGCE and could consider gaining QTS at a later date via the Assessment Only programme.

### **In what circumstances might I need to complete an IELTS?**

If your qualifications were awarded overseas, we may need to see IELTS evidence of your English Language to prove your ability to study at level 7. In some circumstances if you do not have the English Language GCSE equivalent qualification, an IELTS may suffice if passed within the previous two years.

Applicants who were awarded their degree and/or high school qualifications outside the UK will be required to provide a statement of comparability from UK ENIC, as evidence that their qualifications are equivalent to the UK qualifications required for entry to the course. For further information about this, and the cost involved, please visit the UK ENIC website at <https://www.enic.org.uk/> or speak to a member of the Education Admissions team.

### **Must I complete assessments in Literacy and Numeracy?**

There is no longer a requirement to pass assessments prior to enrolling. However, your competency in these skills will be assessed prior to completion of your course.