

Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary)

Information for Applicants

Becoming a qualified secondary school teacher in the University of Dundee, School of Education, Social Work and Community Education

The main route into secondary teaching in Scotland is through a one year programme for which entry is restricted to those with **teaching subjects**: more detail about subject and entry qualifications is given below. In common with such programmes, the Secondary Teaching Award of the University of Dundee will enable you to teach your subject in Scottish secondary schools.

Validation and accreditation

As a necessary part of the University's quality assurance processes, the programme was validated on 21st November 2003. It was accredited by the General Teaching Council Scotland in May 2006 and is thus approved as a programme of teacher education in Scotland.

Location

As with most such programmes, a total of half of the duration, namely 18 weeks, is spent in school experience. The other 18 weeks is spent in a combination of on campus learning and online distance learning. The on campus blocks are seven weeks in total. Placements must be in at least two schools and there are three placement blocks in total.

Entry and subject requirements

The regulations set by SEED require the following of applicants to secondary teaching award programmes:

Minimum entry requirements

You must have:

- an SCE higher grade pass in English; or GCSE English Language and Literature at Grade C or Communication 4 and Literature 1 Modules
- a first degree from a higher education institution in the United Kingdom
- **or** a degree of an equivalent standard from outside the United Kingdom

Your degree must contain passes in two Teaching Subject Qualifying Credits in the subject you want to teach.

The content of your degree must be relevant to the subject you want to teach as it is taught in Scottish secondary schools. As a general rule, a TSQC will represent approximately one third of the total study in one academic year (at least 40 undergraduate credit points). In other words, to teach the subject, your degree must contain 80 points in it.

Note: to teach a Modern Language you must also have met the requirement of 6 months residence in the country for your first language.

Subjects offered 2008-09: English, Maths, Physics with Science, Chemistry with Science, Home Economics and Modern Languages (Students must also meet the residency requirements as stated in:

http://www.gtcs.org.uk/Publications/GuidanceforTeachers/Residence_Requirements_for_Teachers_Modern_Foreign_Languages.asp

Students are required to have an enhanced Disclosure Check before commencing the programme. Failure to provide information will prevent students from undertaking any placement activities associated with the programme of study.

Selection Process

This programme has a significant number of novel features. Its flexibility will be attractive to many and the reliance on line learning will give it a distinctive flavour. A willingness to engage with e-learning regardless of experience is, however, vital.

Selection will be based on academic qualifications, a confidential report by a referee of the applicant's choice, consideration of access factors and an interview.

Interviews will be conducted by a panel representing the faculty and partner schools. The following qualities are looked for at interview:

- confidence and enthusiasm
- the ability to communicate clearly and effectively
- a good understanding of what working with young people involves
- an awareness of current educational initiatives in Scottish education

Programme Outline

As has been mentioned, the programme has three main elements: on campus learning; online learning; and school experience. The last of these makes up half of the total. The programme consists of three large modules comprising all three elements. Each module is concerned with a stage of secondary school and pupils' learning. The first involves the whole secondary school

and the age range 12-18. The second focuses on the stage 14-18, where the demands of national curriculum and assessment are prevalent. The last focuses on the stage 10-14 and will involve a part of the school experience being spent in a primary school associated with the secondary school of the placement. Online learning is a vital ingredient of this course and access to the internet is essential and we suggest students subscribe to a broadband provider, if possible, to speed up access time.

All placements are assessed on a shared basis by University tutors and staff in the partner schools. The first school experience is formatively assessed and will provide a base line from which the student can, with support identify appropriate goals for the rest of the programme.

Throughout the programme there will be an emphasis on purposeful reflection, using key points in the Standard of Initial Teacher Education to inform aims and using the panoply of tutor assessment, peer feedback and an electronic portfolio in order to develop attainment and expand professional capability.

On campus blocks will be of two weeks' duration and the demands on learner will be intense. As the experience is so concentrated, you must be prepared to spend up to a nine hour day in these weeks in order to get the most from the valuable time. To balance this, the flexibility offered by online learning will enable many participants to attend to family concerns or remain in their home base for most of the time span of the programme. Placement schools will be provided for the school experiences and there will be some opportunity to negotiate the best fit of times outside the weeks of on campus attendance.

Availability

This programme may be followed over one year, full-time equivalent or over two years, part-time equivalent.

For further information, please contact:

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Useful Websites

General Teaching Council for Scotland

www.gtcs.org.uk

Scottish Qualifications Authority

www.sqa.org.uk

Learning and Teaching Scotland

www.ltscotland.org.uk

Graduate Teacher Training Registry

www.gtrr.org.uk