

Applying for teaching

Careers Centre
Staffordshire University

Careers Centre talks

– applying for teaching

Aim:

This talk will tell you what you need to know and what you need to do to make an application for Initial Teacher Education and Training (ITET)

Objectives: *by the end of the session you will have...*

- thought about what providers are looking for from candidates
- explored the selection process
- considered the contents of the personal statement
- heard about the application process
- found out where to get help with your application

Preparing for the application

- **Know what the providers will be looking for:**

- Academic ability and subject knowledge
- Effective spoken and written English
- Commitment and motivation
- Confidence, enthusiasm and energy
- Team workers, effective managers and communicators
- Resilience and proactiveness
- Classroom-based experience



- **Register for the skills tests** (and pass them before you start your course)*

A word on skills tests...

- Before booking a skills test you will need to register online on the get-into-teaching site and get a number
- The local test centre is Pearson Professional Centre, Whittle Court, 8A Whittle Court off Town Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 2QE: skillstests@pearson.com
- You get 3 attempts at the numeracy and literacy tests; first test is free
- If you fail at first attempt, you can take 2 resits for which there is a charge. If you fail these you can't take the test again for 2 years



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– routes into teaching

Skills tests...

- The numeracy skills test is a computerised test covering three areas: mental arithmetic, interpreting and using written data, and solving written arithmetic problems
- The literacy professional skills test for trainee teachers is a computerised test divided into four sections: spelling, punctuation, grammar and comprehension.
- Go to the www.education.gov.uk and put 'example skills tests' into the search box. **Practice, practice, practice!**



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You need classroom experience, either voluntary or paid, to support your application. School experience will also give you the opportunity to see inside a modern classroom and observe lessons. Classroom experience can help you find out how teaching has changed since you were at school and this may help you decide whether teaching is for you. If you have no classroom experience, you may be offered an interview that is conditional on your obtaining experience first – but this will depend on your chosen subject.
www.tda.gov.uk

A word on work experience...



Work experience

Most, if not all, ITT providers will require you to have spent some structured time in a classroom with the age range you wish to teach. It is also a good idea to start thinking early on about how you can get experience in other less obvious ways, such as after-school clubs, sports coaching, student tutoring, community education and youth schemes. The more relevant experience that you have to offer, the more chance you have of making a successful application.
www.prospects.ac.uk

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2 ways to get some experience...



**Become a STEM
Ambassador**



www.staffstem.co.uk/ambassadors

Volunteer with inVOLved



www.staffsunion.com/directory/section/3/

Making the Application

Personal statement

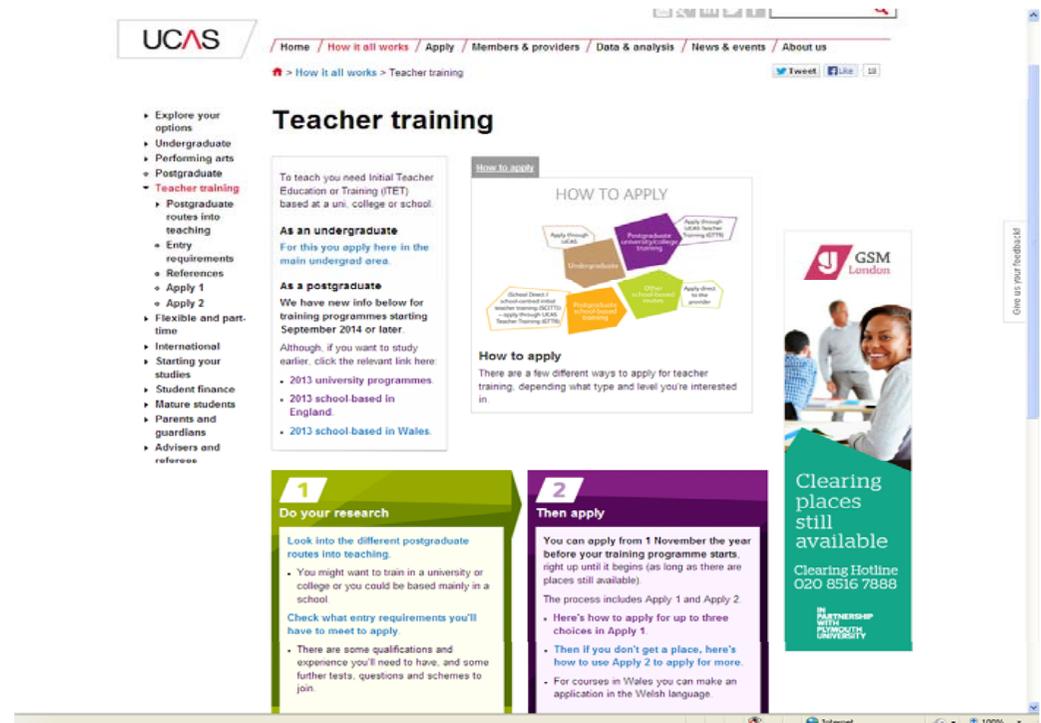
- Why you want to teach the age group and subject you have chosen
- Your knowledge of the education sector, policy, developments and issues
- The skills and abilities you will bring to teaching
- What you learned from classroom experience
- Why you are applying to that particular provider
- Must convey a passion for education!



Making the Application

UCAS – Teacher Training

- For 2014 entry, applications for PGCE, School Direct and SCITTs will be made through UCAS
- **Apply 1** opens on 1st November* each year
- **Apply 2** opens in January of the following year
- Applicants must work through Apply 1 before being able to use Apply 2



The screenshot shows the UCAS website page for Teacher Training. The page is titled "Teacher training" and includes a navigation menu with links like Home, How it all works, Apply, Members & providers, Data & analysis, News & events, and About us. A sidebar on the left lists various options like Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Teacher training. The main content area is divided into sections for "As an undergraduate" and "As a postgraduate". A central diagram titled "HOW TO APPLY" shows different application routes: Apply through UCAS, Apply through a university or college, Apply through a school or college, Apply through a school-based programme, and Apply through a school-based programme. Below this, there are two numbered steps: "1 Do your research" and "2 Then apply". The "1 Do your research" section includes a link to "Look into the different postgraduate routes into teaching" and a list of bullet points: "You might want to train in a university or college or you could be based mainly in a school" and "Check what entry requirements you'll have to meet to apply". The "2 Then apply" section includes a link to "You can apply from 1 November the year before your training programme starts" and a list of bullet points: "Here's how to apply for up to three choices in Apply 1", "Then if you don't get a place, here's how to use Apply 2 to apply for more", and "For courses in Wales you can make an application in the Welsh language". On the right side of the page, there is a banner for GSM London with the text "Clearing places still available" and "Clearing Hotline 020 8516 7888".

www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training

Making the Application

Teach First

- Applications are made directly to the Teach First Website
<http://graduates.teachfirst.org.uk/recruitment/index.html>
- Applications open at varying times, but usually from May – July
- Humanities subjects fill up very quickly

Early Years Initial Teacher Training

- Applications are made directly to the providers:
 - Anglia Ruskin University, Best Practice Network, Kingston University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Eastern Leadership Centre, University of Northampton, University of Chichester, University of Worcester

Preparing for the application

- **The selection process:**
 - Group discussions
 - Micro teaches
 - Pupil activities
 - Interview panels
 - Pupil interview panels (sometimes used in School Direct)
 - Cognitive testing / written tests e.g. Critical analysis, comprehension
- **Do your research!**
 - about the provider(s) you are applying to
 - National Curriculum
 - policy on education, and sector issues and opportunities
 - the nature of teaching



Other things

- Referees (reference or school report)
- Competition
- Watch out for changes – check on get-into-teaching
- Getting help



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Dates for your diary...

PGCE Primary & Secondary

- Apply 1 opens 1st November
- Apply 2 opens in January

Schools Direct Primary & Secondary

- Apply 1 opens 1st November
- Apply 2 opens in January

Teach First

- Applications open at different times each year, usually from early June onwards
- Keep checking the Teach First website



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2	3
3	4	7	8	9	10
10	11	14	15	16	17
17	18		22	23	24
24	25			30	
31					

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– graduate selection and recruitment

For more information and advice go to:

www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching

Call the Teaching helpline on 0800 389 2500

TARGETjobs - Teaching and education graduate careers advice:

<http://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education>

Call into the Careers Centre and get help – Cadman Courtyard, open Monday to Friday 9 – 5pm.

Use the online careers advice service careersadvice@staffs.ac.uk

