PGCE PRIMARY
The School of Education at Oxford Brookes is an internationally recognised centre for professional development and training, we are committed to providing high quality postgraduate taught courses that are tailored to meet the needs of all students.
The Oxford Brookes Postgraduate Certificate in Education Primary programme is renowned for its high standard of teaching. Our student body is diverse and comprised of those who are newly graduated and those seeking a career change.

As an education postgraduate student at Oxford Brookes you will be based at our 110 acre Harcourt Hill campus, which offers the benefits of a complete academic community all on one site.
WHY CHOOSE OXFORD BROOKES?

University study
You will be joining a university, widely regarded as a major contributor to the improvement of education and learning, locally and nationally. The School of Education is a focal point for lively, informed debate on education through its seminar and lecture programmes.

You will have access to university facilities such as, an excellent library, an established student careers service, a nursery, medical and dental services and student support services such as academic and personal counselling. You will also have the opportunity to take advantage of the range of outstanding sporting and leisure activities that Oxford Brookes has to offer. For more information visit: www.brookes.ac.uk/studying

At the forefront of educational study
We are proud to be co-sponsors of the Oxford Academy, a community secondary school, where Oxford Brookes staff and Students provide practical support to pupils and teaching staff. The School of Education enjoys many national and international partnerships which enable us to fulfil our mission to engage in and contribute to social, educational and economic development in this region, the wider UK and internationally.

Research-led teaching
All teaching is research-led, and you will be taught by staff with a wide range of experience in education, including former inner-city headteachers and ICT education experts. You will advance your knowledge and develop your teaching skills in a rich and diverse intellectual environment.

A supportive community
Our students form strong working relationships with tutors and benefit from a supportive and collaborative culture.

The Oxford Brookes Teacher Education Partnership provides the school experience and the practical dimension of the Initial Teacher Training programmes. The partnership delivers around 600 placements for primary teaching students each year, and students often go on to become teachers at their placement school.

We are committed to ensuring students achieve the highest standards and once qualified we offer a range events and tutorials for Newly Qualified Teachers as well as continuing professional development courses to keep up to date with the latest initiatives in education.
“I knew a few people from home who had been to Brookes and highly recommended it. After researching Brookes myself, attending an open day and seeing Oxford. It felt like a place I knew I would be happy in.”

Leanne Moore
PGCE Primary graduate
Living in Oxford

Oxford is one of the world’s most beautiful cities, full of historic buildings for you to explore. With over 30,000 students, Oxford is not only a centre of education and learning but it is also a rich cultural hub with a wealth of cinemas, theatres and museums, exceeding many other cities of its size.

Oxford offers a world of dining opportunities, along with bars, clubs and traditional pubs, famous for their legendary customers including J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis.

Performances of live music range from classical concerts at the Holywell Music Room to jazz, reggae, rock and indie at venues across Oxford.

Oxford has over 50 parks, meadows and nature reserves to discover, as well as being home to Britain’s oldest botanic garden – ideal for a quiet walk or picnic with friends. Your time in Oxford wouldn’t be complete without spending a summer afternoon rowing or punting on the river.

A centre for educational learning

Oxford is an internationally recognised centre for educational learning and the School of Education is a hub for regional, cultural and other educational opportunities.

We host seminars and conferences that position Oxford and Oxford Brookes University at the centre of thinking about the future of British schools. We attract a wide range of speakers, including politicians, leading thinkers from a wide range of academic bodies and local headteachers.
After completing her undergraduate degree, Sarah Jane Grace chose to take a PGCE Primary at Oxford Brookes.

“I had heard that the PGCE at Oxford Brookes was a really good course and I liked the idea of joining a university that had a strong focus on education.

Lecturers at Brookes all show a passion for their subject. They have all gained experience within a primary school setting, so you know that the help you are getting is both up to date and proven. It is not always easy to ask for help, but the lecturers are always willing to go the extra mile to help you and they’re always willing for you to bounce lesson ideas off them.

Being put into groups means you’ll really build a good rapport with your course mates and it’s great to see each other throughout the course and find out how everyone has been getting on with their teaching placements.

There are so many resources available to us at Harcourt Hill Campus, you can even borrow equipment to use on placement and Oxford is home to many wonderful museums and points of interest which you can really enjoy in your cultural week.

Brookes connected me with incredibly supportive and passionate professionals who engaged me in learning in a whole new way and introduced me to people who I know will be friends for life!”

Sarah Jane Grace
Primary PGCE alumna
Course content

The course prepares you to teach children in either the 3-7 or 5-11 age range, and includes an insight into the pedagogy of both age ranges. This one-year full time course provides you with the professional skills and knowledge required to become an effective classroom practitioner. On successful completion of the course you will be awarded with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

The course content is based on a reflective and critical approach to theory, policy and practice, through university-based lectures, teaching sessions and school-based professional training.

The school based training consists of 24 weeks of practical placements across the age ranges you are training to teach. You will be supported by a school mentor and a university tutor who will enable you to develop your professional skills in teaching. In addition there is a one-week placement in an ‘inclusive’ setting.

A key element of the course is the integration of the subject knowledge and pedagogical understanding within the context of your professional placement.

All elements of the course are compulsory. As our courses are reviewed regularly, course content may change from the details given here.

Course Structure

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<tr>
<td>Curriculum Studies</td>
<td>Develop your knowledge and understanding of the primary curriculum and the requirements of the national curriculum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 7 (Master’s level) Modules x3 (60 credits)</td>
<td>Critically reflect on literature to inform your thinking and writing. Focus on key issues in learning and teaching. One of the modules allows you to study an area in more depth, exploring how research informs practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing Professional Practice</td>
<td>Develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge needed to build understanding of the full professional life of a teacher.</td>
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<tr>
<td>School-based-training</td>
<td>You will undertake 24 weeks of school experience across your chosen age range within at least 2 partnership schools. For the 3-7 PGCE you will have placements in a nursery, KS1 and a reception class.</td>
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Teaching, learning and assessment

Approaches to learning include lectures, directed reading, workshops, seminars, and practical and project work with professional tutor support. Assessment is based on coursework, assignments and the achievement of the standards for the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Attendance at lectures, workshops, seminars and school experience is a compulsory component of successful completion of the course and is monitored throughout and reflected in trainee references.

Teaching staff are drawn from the School of Education, visiting speakers from partnership schools, teaching unions, newly qualified teachers (NQTs) and other experts within the field of education.

Entry requirements

- Recognised UK degree, or degree equivalent, typically at second class honours or above.
- Passes at GCSE grade C or above in English language, mathematics and science (or equivalent). There will be brief assessments of English and mathematics competence at interview.
- To be considered for interview candidates are expected to already have insights into the primary classroom, gained through experience in a school. Applicants must complete a minimum of 2 weeks in a UK state primary school prior to application.
- Satisfactory health and criminal record audits.
- Before you can start the course you will need to pass the Department of Education’s professional skills tests in Literacy and Numeracy. Further details on how to book the test are on the course entry webpage:

  www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/pgce-primary-campus-based-3-7/

  www.brookes.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/pgce-primary-campus-based-5-11/

All candidates whose application forms indicate appropriate qualification and experience will be invited for interview.
Ian Mazonowicz studied for his Primary PGCE, specialising in ages 3-7 years.

“Prior to starting my PGCE I worked at a children’s centre with children from birth to 5 years. I was working alongside studying for my BA (Hons) in Early Years, Childcare and Education. I chose the Early Years pathway for my PGCE as it was the area I had the most experience in. Also, it’s an area of education where there is a lack of men taking up posts. This is something I am really passionate about – encouraging more men to get involved in the specialism.

I was attracted to the PGCE at Oxford Brookes because of its locality and because it offered the balance between placement and campus time that I wanted in order to be the best teacher I could be. I enjoyed meeting new people and sharing knowledge and experience with them, many of those on the course were from different backgrounds and had different specialisms.

My fellow students had different skills sets, both from one another, and myself. This made it possible for us to collaborate as a group, so everyone could reach their goal of becoming an NQT when the course came to an end.

The best thing about being a student in the School of Education is the level of experience we have been able to gain throughout all our placements, through the people we meet and the staff who deliver the lectures and seminars. Everyone is there to help regardless of how small the problem is.”

Ian Mazonowicz
Primary PGCE alumnus
The School of Education works with a wide range of primary, secondary schools and early years organisations to deliver the school experience and the practical dimension required for the Initial Teacher Training programmes.

Oxford Brookes is committed to the recruitment of the best students and training them to become exceptional teachers. The Oxford Brookes Teacher Education partnership ensures that students achieve the highest standards, and will enter the profession with the high levels of competence and commitment necessary to enhance pupils’ learning and experiences.

Our partnership includes schools from a wide geographical area, including Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and parts of Berkshire and Wiltshire. Our students are committed, enthusiastic and focused on the development of their teaching expertise.

Our school-based tutors include both experienced mentors and professional tutors, as well as new mentors who have recently undertaken our mentor training. Our tutors are experts in their subjects, research active, and with relevant experience of teaching in schools.

How to apply
Please apply through the UCAS Teacher Training application form.

Funding
Oxford Brookes graduates are eligible for a 10%* discount on postgraduate tuition fees.

The UK government offer postgraduate loans to all eligible UK/EU students

Visit our website for details of scholarships, bursaries and other funding sources: [www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/finance](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/finance)

PGCE Post Compulsory
Oxford Brookes also offers a course for those who wish to teach students above the age of 16 years.