

Getting a PGCE place

Do's and dont's...

A word about teaching...

- It can be amazing.
 - It can be horrendous.
 - It's not for everyone.
 - If you're doing this as a last resort, think carefully.
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- Pros: it's wonderful to see children develop.
 - Cons: it's very stressful, the government keeps coming up with more and more requirements



How can our departments help?

- Make an appointment with the employability officer to discuss experience and your PGCE application.
 - Classics, Ancient History, Egyptology: Evelien Bracke (e.bracke@swansea.ac.uk)
 - History: Charlie Rozier (c.c.rozier@swansea.ac.uk)
- Get 2 weeks of work experience:
 - Talk to your local/former school/s about mentoring. You don't need subject-specific teaching experience: mentoring and teaching assistant posts are all ok. Primary or secondary school experience is fine.
 - Take part in Literacy through Classics – contact Evelien. See www.literacythroughclassics.weebly.com. Greek-Welsh heritage project next term.
- Ask one of your lecturers (personal tutor? LTC?) for a reference.

This year's UCAS details

www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training/apply-and-track/when-apply/apply-1



Types of teacher training

- School based: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/school-led-training>
- University: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/university-led-training>
- History
- Classics

Things to consider...

- Fees and grants (England: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-salary/overview>) and Wales (<http://teachertrainingcymru.org/node/16>)
- Requirements (degree class and GCSE's: C in English and maths in England, B in Wales and C in science for primary in Wales and England)
- Tests (numeracy and literacy – see <https://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/professional-skills-test> for England)
- Distance from home
- PGCE or School Direct
- Subject
- Level – primary or secondary?
(with secondary you can teach in primary, not the other way around)
- Where would you like to teach?



UCAS website is very useful

<http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training>



- Research where you actually want to go and what you want to teach.
- Get two references **well in time** – be polite when you ask
- Start writing on your personal statement NOW – these things take time.
- If you don't have teaching experience yet, get some ASAP. They will expect you to have 2 weeks of classroom experience at least: this can be teaching, TA work or monitoring.

Personal statement (1)

- You need a clear structure
 - Introduction: why do you want to teach
 - Education: how good is your subject-specific knowledge? (Do mention your grades!)
 - Teaching experience: try to be succinct yet thorough. Put things together if you've taught at different schools. E.g. "I already have extensive classroom experience from my time at x, y, and z schools. Things I learned there were a, b, and c. I was surprised at d, but learned e, and even got to teach f. This has made me more aware of the importance of g in teaching young children." Don't just list, give analysis and reflect. Don't go on and on about one specific detail.
 - Extracurricular experience: this is the place to mention scouts or other non-school-based work with under-18s you have. Whether you're applying for primary or secondary, it's good to show you have experience with any ages before 18 and could contribute to all aspects of school life, but keep it relevant.
 - Conclusion: all of these are the reasons why you should allow me on the programme. I already know lots of things but I am really keen to learn and become a great teacher.

Personal statement (2)

- Make a persuasive narrative: it's not about 'this is why I am a great teacher' but 'this is why you should take me on your programme. Think both as a teacher and a student.'
- Your grammar should be perfect. Don't make your sentences too long, write clearly, and don't repeat 'amazing', 'passionate' in every paragraph.
- Proofread.
- Then get one of your friends to proofread. Bring it along to next week's session.
- Let us have a look at it. And then proofread again. 4-5 drafts is about right.

What qualities are training providers looking for?

Training providers will be on the lookout for a wide range of qualities which would make you a good teacher. Here are some of them:

- **Passion** – show you care about teaching.
- **Confident** with and **respectful** towards children.
- **Professionalism** – in both your mindset and the way you conduct yourself.
- **Personality** – this can easily be reflected in how you present yourself, so dress smartly!
- **Energy** – enthusiasm is infectious!
- **Resilience** – being a teacher can be tough, so you'll need to show you're up to the task.
- **Understanding of the commitments for teaching** – even the most prepared interviewees can be nervous about some things. It'll be ok as long as you demonstrate how you can overcome these in order to succeed.

Conclusions

- Come talk to us
- Get teaching experience

PGCE Application:

- Put together passion and knowledge: give examples and analyse and reflect rather than speaking generally
- Be honest
- Be confident but not cocky
- Don't claim to be the world's best teacher
- Be professional – even if you want to move somewhere to be with your girl/boyfriend, only mention professional reasons.
- Talk about what you've already learned and what you're looking forward to learning
- Don't waffle – remember the word limit. Be concise and to the point. FOCUS.
- Make sure your spelling and grammar are faultless.

