

School of

Education

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PGCE

Initial Teacher Education

Our innovative PGCE programme at the School of Education offers you two pathways to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). This pioneering, integrated programme responds to the needs of teacher education in the 21st century, and trains trainee teachers who can teach across both primary and secondary sectors. This emphasis on cross-phase teaching is in keeping with the Welsh Government's National Mission and the Curriculum for Wales, as well with the increasing emergence of all-through schools.

As well as Primary teacher education, the School offers Secondary Initial Teacher Education in the following subjects: Biology with Balanced Science, Chemistry with Balanced Science, Physics with Balanced Science, Drama, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages (French and Spanish) and Welsh.

As a bilingual institution, you can choose to study all of these subjects through the medium of Welsh too. This will enable you to apply for the government's Welsh-medium stimulus grant.

For further information see our How to Apply pages, or contact us.

Why study at Aberystwyth?

- Our innovative Initial Teacher Education (PGCE) enables you to experience teacher training at Primary, Secondary, 3-16 and 3-19 schools
- You will be offered free University accommodation for the eight weeks you are required to be on campus (the duration of the university contact time), with full access to all of our facilities (Students' Union, Library, including free Platinum Sports Centre membership)
- You will be taught and mentored by practitioners who have a wealth of experience, knowledge and skills
- We are partnered with Primary and Secondary schools located across Mid Wales, South West Wales and North Wales
- We offer equivalency programmes at the University for applicants who do not meet the typical GCSE entry requirement in Maths, English and the Sciences.

Bursaries for Initial Teacher Education

The priority subject incentive scheme supports the teachers most needed in Welsh schools. All PGCE Secondary students at Aberystwyth who study PGCE Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Physics or Welsh, and who have a previous degree classification of 2.2 or higher, will be entitled to receive an incentive of £15,000.

Course structure

The course normally runs from September to the end of June. Trainee teachers will be based in schools for 26 weeks. Guided by University tutors and trained school mentors this will involve classroom teaching and different school-based activities. During the eight university block weeks you attend the taught element of your course at the University. The University, together with the partnership's lead schools, will arrange your school placements.

During your school placement you will get the chance to teach, plan your lessons, and in some cases take part in the pastoral care element of being a teacher, amongst other duties. Most of our students tell us they truly enjoyed the experience, and were completely accepted as part of the school environment.

Assessment

Assessment on the course takes a range of forms including essays, reflective writing, presentations, lesson plans and action research project. There are no formal examinations. Assessment of practice takes place throughout all three placements on a continuous basis.

Equivalency Programmes

PGCE applicants who do not meet the entry requirements for GCSE English, Welsh, Maths and Science will be offered the opportunity to follow equivalency programmes. The programmes are designed to meet the GCSE grade requirements for entry into Aberystwyth University ITE courses only.

Cross-curriculum themes

All teachers are responsible for the teaching of the three cross-curriculum themes of literacy, numeracy and digital competence. Students will be supported in planning the delivery of literacy, numeracy and digital competence in the context of their own subject.

Studying through the medium of Welsh

All of our PGCE courses are also available through the medium of Welsh. For more information see our website.



Primary (3-11 years)

PGCE (Primary)

The Primary PGCE course aims to give student teachers the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can engage all learners and lead learning across the primary age range. You will gain an understanding of children's development and learning across the Foundation and upper primary age range.


Working across all Areas of Learning and Experience, you will work with skilled and experienced practitioners learning how to teach ambitious, capable and confident learners who are informed about the world beyond school. This is an innovative course, which will give you an enriched understanding of the progression of pupils into the next phases of their education through focused experiences in other phases of schooling.


Together with your fellow students on the secondary programmes, you will study the principles of effective pedagogy, assessment, lesson and curriculum planning. You will actively participate in learning, contributing to seminars, delivering presentations and engaging critically with research. During the University sessions, you will plan and deliver micro-lessons in preparation for the practical element of the course. You will study the full range of the primary curriculum with an opportunity to focus on specialist areas and phases in either the Foundation Phase or Upper Primary. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.


In addition to specialist placements in primary schools, you will experience a short placement in a secondary school working to develop your understanding of the continuum of children's learning.


Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** 3DHM

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths, and GCSE grade C in a Science subject.

 **IELTS:** 7.0 with minimum 6.0 in each component. See page 177.

Biology with Balanced Science

PGCE (Secondary)

Biology is a natural science discipline that studies living things. In our evolving world, the knowledge of Biology is essential for everyone.

At Aberystwyth University, our PGCE Biology with Balanced Science degree will equip future teachers with the professional skills to develop learners' understanding of Biology and its applications. Students on this course will be trained to teach ambitious and capable learners who are informed and confident about the world beyond school.


You will study the curriculum for Biology as part of the Science and Technology Area of Learning and Experience, and you will collaborate with students in other subject areas to develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be focus on the teaching of Biology as part of the single and double award GCSEs and Biology A level. All students in science subjects are trained to teach Balanced Science at Key Stage 3.


In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.


Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** 3DGP

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent, at least 50% of which is Biology-related. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE Grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths.

 **IELTS:** 7.0 with minimum 6.0 in each component. See page 177.

Chemistry with Balanced Science

PGCE (Secondary)

Chemistry is the scientific study of the properties and behaviour of matter. In natural science, that covers elements that make up matter to the compounds of atoms, molecules and ions: their composition, structure, properties, behaviour and the changes they undergo during a reaction with other substances.


At Aberystwyth University, our PGCE Chemistry with Balanced Science degree will equip future teachers with the professional skills to develop learners' understanding of Chemistry and its applications.


You will study the curriculum for Chemistry as part of the Science and Technology Area of Learning and Experience, and you will collaborate with students in other subject areas to develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be focus on the teaching of Chemistry as part of the single and double award GCSEs and Chemistry A level. All students in science subjects are trained to teach Balanced Science at Key Stage 3.


In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.


Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** 3DGR

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent, at least 50% of which is Chemistry-related. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE Grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths.

 **IELTS:** 7.0 with minimum 6.0 in each component. See page 177.

Drama


PGCE (Secondary)

Drama expresses human experience through a focus on role, action and tension, played out in time and space. As a Drama teacher, your role is to educate students to structure these elements and to use dramatic conventions, techniques and technologies to create imagined worlds. Working within the Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience, you will train to teach ambitious, capable and creative students who are ready to learn and use their acquired knowledge to lead fulfilling lives.


You will study the Drama curriculum within the Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience, and in collaboration with students in other subject areas you will develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be a focus on delivering practical, devised and text-based sessions throughout the secondary age range including GCSE Drama, AS/A level Drama and Performing Arts specifications.


In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.


Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** 3DGX

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent, at least 50% of which is Drama-related. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE Grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths.

 **IELTS:** 7.0 with minimum 6.0 in each component. See page 177.

English

PGCE (Secondary)

If you want to help pupils express themselves, to become critical thinkers and develop the vital skills they need to succeed, not just in English but also in other areas of education and beyond, then our PGCE English course at Aberystwyth is for you.

The English PGCE secondary course at Aberystwyth University aims to give student teachers the professional skills needed to develop learners' critical and creative response to language and literature. Working within the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience, you will train to teach ambitious and capable learners who are informed and confident about the world beyond school.


You will study the curriculum for English as part of the Languages, Learning and Communication Area of Learning and Experience, and you will collaborate with students in other subject areas to develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be a focus on the teaching of language and literature throughout the secondary age range including GCSE English and English Literature, and AS/A level Language and Literature specifications.


In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.


Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** 3DGZ

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent, at least 50% of which is English-related. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE Grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths.

 **IELTS:** 7.0 with minimum 6.0 in each component. See page 177.

Geography

PGCE (Secondary)

Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore both the physical properties of the Earth's surface and the human societies spread across it. As a Geography teacher, you will inspire a sense of awe, wonder and fascination about the world and draw on your own experiences to make Geography relevant and meaningful to the young people in your classroom.


At Aberystwyth University, our PGCE Geography degree will equip future teachers with the professional skills to develop the understanding of Geography and its applications.


The Geography PGCE course is concerned with theoretical and practical classroom approaches to the teaching of Geography throughout the secondary age range including GCSE and AS/A level. This involves examining a range of appropriate learning and teaching strategies in the varied classroom situations you will encounter. Through working collaboratively with students in other subjects areas across the curriculum you will develop a rigorous understanding of when and where particular activities might be appropriate and suitable in ensuring effective learning.


In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.


Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** 3DH3

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent, at least 50% of which is Geography-related. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE Grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths.

 **IELTS:** 7.0 with minimum 6.0 in each component. See page 177.

History

PGCE (Secondary)


History is a subject that introduces young learners to major events and developments of the past. As a teacher, your role is to help them to become critical thinkers, developing their understanding of our society and the people within it.

At Aberystwyth University, our History PGCE degree will equip future teachers with the professional skills to develop the understanding of History and its applications. Students on this course will be trained to teach ambitious and capable learners who are informed and confident about the world beyond school.


The History PGCE course is concerned with theoretical and practical classroom approaches to the teaching of history throughout the secondary age range including GCSE and AS/A level. This involves examining a range of appropriate learning and teaching strategies in the varied classroom situations you will encounter. Through working collaboratively with students in other subjects areas across the curriculum you will develop a rigorous understanding of when and where particular activities might be appropriate and suitable in ensuring effective learning.


In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.


Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** 3DH5

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent, at least 50% of which is History-related. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE Grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths.

 **IELTS:** 7.0 with minimum 6.0 in each component. See page 177.

Mathematics

PGCE (Secondary)


Math is all around us, in everything we do. Mathematics is the science that deals with the logic of shape, quantity and arrangement. There is a strong demand throughout the UK and the world for qualified teachers in Mathematics.

At Aberystwyth University, our PGCE in Mathematics is strongly aligned to the new curriculum in Wales, and upon completion of our course, you will be equipped with the range of teaching skills and knowledge needed for you to qualify as an effective teacher in Mathematics.

You will study the curriculum as part of the Mathematics and Numeracy Area of Learning and Experience, and you will collaborate with students in other subject areas to develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be a focus on the teaching of Mathematics throughout the secondary age range including Mathematics GCSE and AS/A level specifications. The ITE Partnership Group holds the Excellence Status, having gained the Mathematics Tribal Award, and has been cited for ERW best practice school status for delivering mathematics and numeracy across the curriculum. All schools are experienced at successfully supporting student teachers.


In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.


Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** 3DH7

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent, at least 50% of which is Mathematics-related. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE Grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths.

 **IELTS:** 7.0 with minimum 6.0 in each component. See page 177.

Modern Languages

(French/Spanish)

PGCE (Secondary)

The Modern Languages course will provide you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can develop learners' mastery and use of the foreign languages they are studying.

You can study one language or two languages during your Initial Teacher Education (PGCE). At the Aberystwyth ITE Partnership, you will be trained to teach your specialist modern language, or even a combination of languages. The course will involve the methodology of language teaching as applied to your specialism or specialisms, e.g. French and/or Spanish, Spanish and/or French. Working within the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience, you will train to teach ambitious and capable learners who are informed and confident about the world beyond school and the country under study. There will be a focus on the teaching of language throughout the secondary age range including GCSE French or Spanish, and AS/A level Modern Languages specifications.


In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.


Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** French 3DH9, Spanish 3DHF

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent, at least 50% of which is related to the language to be studied. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE Grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths.

 **IELTS:** 7.0 with minimum 6.0 in each component. See page 177.

Physics with Balanced Science

PGCE (Secondary)

Physics is the natural science that studies matter, its fundamental constituents, its motion and behaviour through space and time, and the related entities of energy and force. Physics is one of the most fundamental scientific disciplines, with its main goal being to understand how the universe behaves.

At Aberystwyth University, our PGCE Physics with Balanced Science degree will equip future teachers with the professional skills to develop learners' understanding of Physics and its applications. Students on this course will be trained to teach ambitious and capable learners who are informed and confident about the world beyond school.

You will study the curriculum for Physics as part of the Science and Technology Area of Learning and Experience, and you will collaborate with students in other subject areas to develop your practice in working across the curriculum. There will be focus on the teaching of Physics as part of the single and double award GCSEs and Physics A level. All students in science subjects are trained to teach Balanced Science at Key Stage 3.


In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.


Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** 3DGV

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent, at least 50% of which is Physics-related. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE Grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths.

 **IELTS:** 7.0 with minimum 6.0 in each component. See page 177.

Welsh

(*only available in Welsh)

PGCE (Secondary)

The Welsh course will provide you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can develop learners' ability to respond critically and creatively to language and literature. The aim is to nurture pupils to become confident speakers, keen readers and writers who will be able to express themselves clearly and concisely.

Working within the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience, you will collaborate with students in other subjects areas across the curriculum to develop a rigorous understanding of when and where particular activities might be appropriate and suitable in ensuring effective learning.

There will be a focus on the teaching of Welsh throughout the secondary age range including Welsh GCSE and AS/A level Welsh specifications, both as a first and second language.


In addition to specialist placements in secondary schools, you will experience a short placement in a primary school working with skilled primary teachers. You will also undertake an action research project to develop an aspect of your practice and begin your career as a research-informed teacher.

Key facts

 **Degree type:** PGCE

 **Course code:** 3DHH*

 **Duration:** 1 year (full-time)

 **Entry requirements:** A Bachelors (Honours) degree, or equivalent, at least 50% of which is Welsh-related. Applicants must also demonstrate GCSE Grade B or above in English or Welsh (first language) and Maths.

Education (Wales)

MA

The National MA Education (Wales) is a truly transformative and sector-leading degree programme for educational professionals in Wales, from early career teachers to senior leaders.

The educational landscape in Wales is changing rapidly. Teaching not only requires the mastery of a complex set of skills to guide, motivate and facilitate student learning, but also the ability to enquire into professional practice in order to improve it. The National MA Education (Wales) – which has been collaboratively developed by seven universities in Wales through direct engagement with a variety of key stakeholders, including Welsh Government – will ensure that all education professionals in Wales have the same high-quality opportunity to enhance their professional knowledge, engage with research, and to improve their professional practice.

Please note:

- **The course is 3 years part-time. There is no full-time option.**
- The course consists of 200 hours of study per 20 credit module, of which 22 will be contact hours. Learning will be a blend of online and face-to-face. Activities will be a combination of lectures, seminars, group activities and individual activities
- Students on this course will join students on the same course at six other HEIs in Wales
- Welsh Government funding is available to support teachers in years 3-6 of their careers, and to support teachers/college lecturers to follow the Leadership/ALN pathways. Limited ITE partnership funding is also available.

Key facts



Duration: 3 years (part-time)



Course code: X3PG



IELTS: 6.5 with minimum 5.5 in each component. See page 177.



Entry requirements: Candidates must hold Qualified Teacher Status and be currently employed in the compulsory education sector in the UK.



Additional info: Welsh Government funding is available to support teachers in years 3-6 of their careers.



Additional info: Prospective students are encouraged to contact Dr Lucy Trotter: lut22@aber.ac.uk

Modules

Modules that you may study on this course include:

- Advanced Research and Enquiry Skills
- Additional Learning Needs
- Excellence in Practice
- Curriculum Design and Realisation
- Evidence-Informed Practice
- Equity and Diversity
- Emotional Health, Mental Health and Well-being
- Leading Organisational Change.

All modules are also available through the medium of Welsh.

For more details and the latest information on our modules, see our website.

MPhil, PhD, DProf

The School of Education offers MPhil, PhD and DProf (Professional Doctorate) degrees. These are research-based degrees, in which students undertake individual research projects under close academic supervision from within the department. They can be studied on a full-time or part-time basis.

The MPhil normally takes one year of full-time research (two years part-time), after which students complete and submit a dissertation of around 60,000 words.

The PhD normally takes three years of full-time research (five years part-time), after which students complete and submit a dissertation of 80-100,000 words.

The Professional Doctorate or DProf is designed to allow qualified professionals to study towards a doctorate while maintaining their employment. It combines a programme of taught study and a research project.

Research supervision is available in a number of areas, including childhood studies, rural education and pedagogic research. Some of the research themes within the Department include:

Pedagogic research including:

- learning and teaching
- subject knowledge and understanding
- ICT assessment
- assessment for learning
- achievement
- bilingual context.

Childhood Studies including:

- how children learn
- gender studies
- achievement
- health and well-being studies
- healthy schools
- curriculum development in Wales and elsewhere in the UK
- special educational needs.

Rural Education including:

- partnerships in education
- community education
- National and local educational policy and the impact on small schools
- 14-19 Learning Pathway
- adult education.

For further information see our How to Apply pages or contact us.