

School of

# Education

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Founded in 1892, our School of Education is one of the longest-established education departments in the UK. Our mission is to combine the best of our traditions for academic excellence with the most up-to date methods in teaching, student engagement and research.

Our innovative Initial Teacher Training (PGCE) enables you to experience teacher training at both Primary and Secondary schools. You could start your teaching career with a bursary worth up to £20,000 for teacher training.





## PGCE

### Initial Teacher Training

Our innovative PGCE programme at the School of Education offers you two pathways to Qualified Teaching Status (QTS). This pioneering, integrated programme responds to the needs of teacher education in the 21st century, and trains student 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 training, the School offers Secondary Initial Teacher Training in the following subjects: Biology with Balanced Science, Chemistry with Balanced Science, Physics with Balanced Science, Drama, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages (French, German 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 Training (PGCE) enables you to experience teacher training at both Primary and Secondary 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 tests at the University for applicants who do not meet the typical GCSE entry requirement in Maths, English and the Sciences
- Aberystwyth University is the only university in Wales to be awarded University of the Year for Teaching Quality twice in consecutive years by the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018 & 2019
- The University has also been awarded Gold for Postgraduate Studies in the 2019 WhatUni Student Choice Awards

#### Bursaries for Teacher Training

The Welsh Government Initial Teacher Training Grant is available for certain subjects/pathways. Each year the Welsh Government announces, usually in February, which subjects are eligible and the amounts that are available. These bursaries can vary but are usually offered for high-priority subjects and for first-class honours degrees. See our website or the Welsh Government's website for further information.

#### 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 arranges all of the 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 Tests

PGCE applicants who do not meet the entry requirements for GCSE English, Welsh, Maths and Science will be offered the opportunity to take an equivalence test. The tests 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 will equip you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can engage all learners and lead learning across the 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 and confident 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 participate actively 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.


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. 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:** 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.

## Biology with Balanced Science


### PGCE (Secondary)


The Biology course will provide you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can develop learners' skills and understanding of Biology and its application.


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.

## Chemistry with Balanced Science


### PGCE (Secondary)


The Chemistry course will provide you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can develop learners' skills and understanding of Chemistry and its application.


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.



## Physics with Balanced Science





### PGCE (Secondary)

The Physics course will provide you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can develop learners' skills and understanding of Physics and its application.

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

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|---|---|
|  | <b>Degree type:</b> PGCE.   |
|  | <b>Course code:</b> 3DGV.   |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> 1 year (full-time).  |
|  | <b>Entry requirements:</b><br>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. |

## Mathematics





### PGCE (Secondary)

The Mathematics course will provide you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can develop learners' skills and confidence in mathematics and numeracy.

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

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | <b>Degree type:</b> PGCE.   |
|  | <b>Course code:</b> 3DH7.   |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> 1 year (full-time).  |
|  | <b>Entry requirements:</b><br>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. |

## Drama





### PGCE (Secondary)

The Drama course will equip you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can develop learners' skills in creating, performing and evaluating.

You will study Drama's contribution to the delivery of the curriculum for English or Welsh, and will consider Drama's potential as part of the Expressive Arts Area of Learning and Experience. 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

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | <b>Degree type:</b> PGCE.   |
|  | <b>Course code:</b> 3DGX.   |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> 1 year (full-time).  |
|  | <b>Entry requirements:</b><br>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. |

## English




### PGCE (Secondary)

The English course will equip you with the professional skills needed to become successful teachers who can develop learners' critical and creative response to language and literature.

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

|   |   |
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|  | <b>Degree type:</b> PGCE.   |
|  | <b>Course code:</b> 3DGZ.   |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> 1 year (full-time).  |
|  | <b>Entry requirements:</b><br>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. |

## Geography





### PGCE (Secondary)

The Geography course will enable you to become passionate, creative and enthusiastic practitioners to motivate the desire in learners to want to learn about society and the world.

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. 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

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|  | <b>Degree type:</b> PGCE.   |
|  | <b>Course code:</b> 3DH3.   |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> 1 year (full-time).  |
|  | <b>Entry requirements:</b><br>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. |

## History





### PGCE (Secondary)

The History course will enable you to become passionate, creative and enthusiastic practitioners to motivate the desire in learners to want to learn about society and the world.

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. 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

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|  | <b>Degree type:</b> PGCE.   |
|  | <b>Course code:</b> 3DH5.   |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> 1 year (full-time).  |
|  | <b>Entry requirements:</b><br>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. |

## Modern Foreign Languages

(French/German/Spanish)

### PGCE (Secondary)





The Modern Foreign 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 Training (PGCE).

At the Aberystwyth ITE Partnership, you will be trained to teach your specialist modern foreign 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, French and/or German.

Working within the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience, you will train to teach ambitious, capable and confident 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, Spanish or German, and AS/A Modern Foreign 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

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|  | <b>Degree type:</b> PGCE.   |
|  | <b>Course code:</b> French 3DH9, German 3DHC, Spanish 3DHF.   |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> 1 year (full-time).  |
|  | <b>Entry requirements:</b><br>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. |

## 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 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

|   |   |
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|  | <b>Degree type:</b> PGCE.   |
|  | <b>Course code:</b> 3DHH*.  |
|  | <b>Duration:</b> 1 year (full-time).  |
|  | <b>Entry requirements:</b><br>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. |



## 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 DProf allows you to gain a doctorate whilst remaining in 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.

