

YOUR QUICK GUIDE TO PGCE UNI APPLICATIONS



4 OCTOBER 2022

DfE Find Postgraduate
Teacher Training opens.

11 OCTOBER 2022

DfE Apply opens for new
applications for 2022.

DECEMBER 2022

Application deadline for PGCE
Primary January cohort.

JANUARY 2023

January cohort registration
day – first day of course.

LATE AUGUST 2023

Application deadline for PGCE
September cohorts.

SEPTEMBER 2023

September cohort registration
day – first day of course.

WHERE DO I APPLY?

All PGCE course applications are now made through the government run **DfE Apply Service** which replaced UCAS postgraduate teacher training application. Within DfE Apply you can make a PGCE application for up to 3 Teacher Training providers.

You can search for available PGCE courses using DfE Find Postgraduate Teacher Training. Once you know which course you wish to apply for, all applications for university courses must go through DfE Apply. For PGCE courses, we recruit until early January for the January cohort and the end of August for the September cohort. There is no fee for using the DfE Apply application service.

WHAT DOES MY APPLICATION INVOLVE?

When you make your PGCE Application, you'll need to provide details about your qualifications, work history or experience and your reasons for applying. Please note that to apply for PGCE courses you will need to have already completed a Bachelor's degree by the course Registration Day.

Teacher Training applications are made up of the following main sections:

Personal statement: Your personal statement is your opportunity to introduce yourself to the university and express why you're passionate about teaching. It's a crucial part of your application so be sure to showcase your potential and enthusiasm.

References: You need to provide the details of 2 people who can be your reference at application. If you are still at university or finished your degree within the last five years, one of these will have to be someone from that university. If you already work in a school, one of your references should be from your Headteacher. The other references can be from people you work for or a mentor who can comment on your character and potential as a teacher. Contact these people before you start your application, so they can keep an eye out for your request and can complete your references in a timely fashion for you.

WHAT DOES A PERSONAL STATEMENT LOOK LIKE?

The DfE Apply application requires a personal statement. This is divided into 2 sections:

'Why do you want to Teach'
Word limit 600 words

1.

'Your suitability to Teach a Subject or Age Group'
Word limit 400 words

2.

It needs to be written by you, about you, and can include any skills, hobbies, interests, qualifications or experiences you think are relevant to your application. This is particularly useful if you are retraining or changing career and need to prove that you have transferable skills. It also really important that you mention any teaching experience you have gained, secured or are looking to secure as long as you will have completed your school experience prior to the start date of the course.

You'll find tips on what to include in your personal statement on the application form, but in section 1 (why do you want to teach), you can focus on:

- Your interest in the subject or age group.
- The demands and rewards of teaching.
- The personal qualities you have that would make you a good teacher.
- How you might contribute to a school outside of the classroom.
- Your experience working with children or young people.
- Your thoughts on welfare and education.

In section 2 (your suitability to teach a subject or age group) you should focus on detailing evidence of the knowledge and interest you bring to the PGCE programme you hope to join. This evidence can include:



- The subject of your undergraduate degree.
- Modules you studied as part of your degree.
- Postgraduate degrees (for example, a Masters or PhD.)
- Your A level subjects expertise you've gained at work.

TIPS AND TRICKS:

- Read some examples online.
- Keep it positive and enthusiastic.
- Proofread it yourself and ask others to check it for you.
- Use a professional looking email address.
- Use a strong opening and closing sentence.
- Avoid jokes, quotes and humour.
- Explain why you think a teaching career is for you.
- Talk about the qualities you possess that you believe will make you a good teacher.
- Mention any experience you have had in a teaching role and what you have learned.
- Try to link your points to the current programme of study for the course you want to apply to.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

 cumbria.ac.uk/teacher-training

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