

School placements

Studying for a teaching degree or PGCE requires a professional approach to attending a placement. A placement is viewed by both the school and the University in the same way as attending full time employment. There is a high level of expectation placed upon students to ensure they are able to travel and attend placement.

In order for students to plan effectively for placement there are a few facts that they need to be aware of.

The University searches for a placement for each student based on either their home address (If this is within the catchment area for the campus they are based on) or on the campus they are registered at. Whilst every effort is made to minimise travelling, sometimes it is necessary for students to travel for up to 90 minutes (180 minutes return) by either car or public transport to attend placement. This is due to the unpredictable nature of the placements that are made available by schools.

The University offers short term lets on its accommodation. It is advisable that students on a PGCE course consider this option especially those with a home address in the North West of England or Northern Ireland. This advice is based on the likely location of placements.

Schools expect students to arrive in school no later than 8.30 a.m. (8.00 a.m. for schools based in London). Schools do not expect students to leave school until 30 minutes after the end of teaching.

The University is unable to fit placement arrangements around domestic issues. These include; employment, child care issues and caring responsibilities. This is not an exhaustive list, and students must ensure that they make attendance on placement their first priority.

The University offers help and support with placement arrangements for students with a disability. Initial guidance is provided by the University's Learning Information and Student Services (LISS).

Travelling to and from placement can be expensive. The University provides some help with costs but this is dependent on circumstances.

Placements are dependent on schools agreeing to take students on placement and arrangements can be subject to change. As a result placements are allocated on the grounds of availability rather than convenience for the individual.

For full details on any of the above points please refer to the University's 'Initial Teacher Education Placement, Travel & Accommodation Policy' which is located at;

[Placement Travel Accommodation Policy | University of Cumbria](#)