

# INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

**Minster Learning Alliance**

in partnership with

**Nottingham Trent University**

Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

Training Year 2024 - 25



# Minster Learning Alliance

Minster Learning Alliance is a large community of schools around Nottinghamshire who work together to train the next generation of teachers. Our schools include Infant and Nursery, Junior, Primary and Secondary schools in urban, suburban and rural areas. We facilitate training for up to a hundred trainees per year with schools that we have worked with for over a decade. Our training is led by experienced facilitators who are also current teachers – we can therefore offer informed and relatable insights to support your development as a teacher.

We have led initial teacher training for over a decade, working with trainees from both Primary and Secondary phases in over 60 schools in Nottinghamshire. We have developed close partnerships with our partner schools who are Invested in offering high-quality school-based training and opportunities. Our Mentors and Lead Mentor team are experienced teachers, sourced from schools with a proven track record of supporting teacher development.

We have an established and successful partnership with Nottingham Trent University (NTU), and our course offers trainees 'the best of both worlds': the opportunity to be taught by specialised university lecturers alongside bespoke in-school training within an Alliance of schools. We work as a Lead Partner of NTU to:

- Undertake assessment of your application for training and to place you within a suitable placement school,
- Provide you with a personal in-school mentor, in the same Key Stage (Primary) or subject (Secondary),
- Provide you with a Lead mentor, who will support your mentor and facilitate phase- or subject-specific training through visits and feedback,
- Deliver Intensive Training and Practice (ITAP) weeks, where you will explore key elements of teaching and learning, and
- Work in partnership with NTU to support you throughout your training year and beyond.

Recently 95% of our trainees have successfully qualified and secured full time posts within 6 months of completing teacher training. A large proportion of our trainees are employed by their base school, or at other schools within the Alliance. We are proud of our approach to training, which includes:

- Integrated delivery of your PGCE course alongside Nottingham Trent University
- Bespoke support from an experienced in-school mentor and a team of Lead Mentors,
- Co-ordination of school placements based upon trainee preference and a varied experience of schools,
- Opportunities to experience a full range of teaching scenarios, including SEND experiences and a fully-funded residential trip if desired,
- Support with wider issues such as mental health and work-life balance, and
- Support in applying for your first teaching role.

In addition, we facilitate Early Career Framework training across Nottinghamshire, offering you the opportunity to continue your further training with us in your first two years as a qualified teacher.



# Nottingham Trent University

At Nottingham Institute of Education, it's the people that make us. We are a community, learning from and supporting each other to make a positive difference in society. Designed and delivered with our partners to prepare you for your future career, our teacher-training courses are innovative, hands-on and career-focused. Together we aim to inspire, empower and have a real impact on teaching and learning.

You will learn at the forefront of your profession, from experienced lecturers and working teachers with first-hand professional experience of teaching. Not only is your course informed by the latest thinking, but you will also learn from the people with a real passion for their phase and subject.

Based at our Clifton Campus, you will learn within our specially-designed teaching rooms which simulate classrooms. These learning spaces help to prepare you for teaching, giving you the chance to gain hands-on experience in a realistic environment. The site offers study and recreation spaces to support you and we have wider facilities across the University to support your health and wellbeing.

**Nottingham  
Institute of Education**



# Your PGCE Course

Our PGCE course runs from the end of August to the end of July, following the school academic year. During the school year, you will experience a number of school placements and training events, designed to build your capacity and confidence as a teacher. The majority of your time will be spent working within a classroom alongside experienced colleagues, offering you an insight into life as a full-time teacher. In addition to your university studies, you will have the opportunity to engage with school-specific training such as INSET days and faculty meetings.

## AUTUMN TERM

After an initial induction at Nottingham Trent University, you will undertake a placement in your main school, where you will observe teachers and deliver your first lessons. During the Autumn Term you will broadly spend four days per week in your placement school and one day per week at university. You will build your teaching load and capacity throughout the term towards delivering multiple lessons per week, supported by Intensive Training and Practice (ITAP) weeks in other schools which will allow you to explore key elements of teaching.



## SPRING TERM

You will start the Spring Term in your second placement school before remaining to your main placement. Again, you will spend broadly four days in school and one at university. Your teaching load will continue to build towards multiple lessons within a day, with you now taking responsibility for some full classes or subjects. You will also be working to submit your main assessments, which will be based upon your implementation of pedagogy in practice on your placements. ITAP weeks will continue to broaden and deepen your understanding, and we will support you to begin applying for your first teaching post.



## SUMMER TERM

During your final term, you will continue to build your teaching capacity to fully prepare you for your career as a teacher. You will now be planning whole sequences of lessons across a range of subjects (Primary phase) or year groups (Secondary phase) based upon your knowledge and assessment of students. Within the Summer Term, you will have the opportunity to steer your own professional development based upon your areas of interest. Many trainees use this time to explore teaching in SEND schools or to participate in residential school visits, to develop a wider experience of life as a teacher.



# A typical working day in a placement school for a PGCE trainee

*\*exact times will vary depending upon placement schools*

Time	Activity
8.15am	Arrival at your placement school, where you will spend time with your colleagues preparing for the day ahead and greeting children as they arrive.
8.30am	Morning lessons begin – you will teach some lessons and support/observe others, building your teaching load throughout the year. Some of your lessons will be observed by your School Mentor, Lead Mentor or University Tutor, allowing you to receive feedback and encouragement which will help you to make progress.
12.30pm	Lunch break with colleagues and other trainees
1.00pm	Afternoon lessons begin – you may be teaching or observing lessons, or may have scheduled time to work independently to plan your future lessons, work on your university assignments and reflect upon your progress so far.
3.30pm	End of school day for students. Trainees will attend meetings with colleagues, meet with their personal mentor and work independently to plan future lessons, work on university assignments and reflect upon your progress
5.00pm	Approximate end of school day for trainees.
Evenings & Weekends	Evening/Weekend Depending upon your own circumstances, you may choose to remain in school to undertake your independent work or complete this at home. Some trainees work each evening and have their weekends free, while others choose to work more flexibly around family arrangements which may include time spent working at weekends. All course resources, records and information are stored online in our cloud based 'Pebble Pad' programme, which enables you to work flexibly around your own circumstances and commitments.



# Our Teacher Training Courses

There are two ways that you can apply to train with us. Applying for either of the options below will lead you to study on a PGCE course with Nottingham Trent University. Individuals can apply for up to three courses within the DfE's 'Apply for teacher training' system - we encourage you to make multiple applications with us which will result in up to three interviews and opportunities to train with us.

## GENERAL PLACES

Our general places offer the greatest range of schools – you will be assessed for entry on to the course, and following a successful interview at one of our Assessment Centres we will then place you in to one of our experienced partner schools, based upon your location and context, where you will work towards your PGCE qualification in partnership with Nottingham Trent University.

## SCHOOL - SPECIFIC PLACES

If you prefer to train in a specific school, we offer a number of options. You will be assessed for entry on to the course, and then following a successful interview at your chosen school, we will confirm your place on the PGCE qualification in partnership with Nottingham Trent University.

We have over 100 teacher training courses within our organisations across the Primary and Secondary phases in over 40 schools.

These include school-specific places in Nottinghamshire, with lots of locations to choose from including Mansfield, Southwell, Newark, Hucknall, Bulwell and central Nottingham.

**Our provider code is 1EC**

**Search our courses here -**

<https://www.find-postgraduate-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/>







You can find and apply for any of our courses by going to the DfE's Find postgraduate teacher training service, and then entering our provider code in the relevant box. A list of our courses is available on the following pages – you could apply for one of our courses, or multiple courses with us. For each course that you apply for, you will have a separate assessment and interview.

All of the courses on the following pages will result in you studying for a PGCE at Nottingham Trent University – the code represents your choice of placement school.



# Financial Support for Your Training

Teacher Training is a significant commitment, and the majority of our trainees do not work during their training year. In order to support trainees, financial support is available to cover university fees and living costs for the duration of your training.

All trainees must pay course fees of £9,250 (or £16,800 for International Students) to their training provider – in our case, Nottingham Trent University.

There are four types of funding available to UK citizens:

1. A tuition fee loan to cover the costs of your university tuition fees (means-tested),
2. A maintenance loan to support your living costs (means-tested), 3. Further financial support if you are a parent and/or have a disability and/or are a veteran of the forces, and
4. A tax-free bursary or scholarship for some Secondary subjects (as below).

This funding is paid in instalments throughout the year.

For the 2024-25 training year, bursaries and scholarships are available as below for trainees with an honours degree class of 1st , 2:1 or 2:2 (bursaries only) which relates to the subject that you are studying to teach

Subject	Bursary	Scholarship
Art & Design	£10,000	N/A
Biology	£25,000	
Chemistry	£28,000	£30,000
Computing	£28,000	£30,000
Design & Technology	£25,000	N/A
English	£10,000	
Geography	£25,000	
Languages	£25,000	£27,000
Mathematics	£28,000	£30,000
Music	£10,000	N/A
Physics	£28,000	£30,000
Religious Education	£10,000	N/A

**Please note:** all bursaries are subject to trainees meeting the full conditions of an offer to enter teacher training



## What is a student loan?

A student loan is an amount of money that is paid to you to support your living costs (up to £13,022) or used to pay all or part of your university tuition fees (up to £9,250). Student loans are means tested – trainees' household income is assessed with greater amounts of loans offered to those in most need.

Almost all trainees are entitled to student loans. Student loans are repaid at a low rate from your future earnings, and repayments only take place if you are earning at least £27,000. After 30 years, any remaining loan will be written off.

More information: [Tuition fee and maintenance loans](#)

## What is a bursary?

A bursary is an amount of money that is paid directly to you in instalments throughout your study.

Bursary amounts vary each year, depending upon the demand for teachers in that phase or subject. The amount of bursary offered is determined by the DfE.

Trainees with a degree class of a 1st, 2:1 or 2:2 are entitled to a bursary if they are training in certain phases or subjects (see table above). Bursaries do not have to be repaid.

More information: [Teacher training bursaries](#)

## Making An Application

We aim to develop the teachers and leaders of the future who will work together with us to inspire young people. We are looking for candidates who enjoy working with young people and who are passionate about learning.

Our vision of a teacher is of someone who is adaptable and resilient; critically aware and reflexive, empathetic, thoughtful and a good communicator; inspirational, dynamic and exciting; knowledgeable, innovative and forward thinking; and proactive, self-directing and collegial. If this sounds like something to which you aspire, then teaching is the career for you!

Within your application, you'll be asked to write a personal statement. This section should be between 500-1000 words in length and is an opportunity to express your rationale for choosing to train to teach and views about why teaching and education are important. You should include information about any experience or skills that you have which are relevant to teaching. Our advice would be to keep this section concise and personal to help us to learn about you. We would recommend framing your personal statement around the following questions:

- Why would you like to be a teacher?
- Which subject areas do you feel passionate about?
- Why do you feel education is important?
- What skills do you have that will make you a good teacher?
- Do you have any relevant experience of working with young people, or within a school?

# The Interview Process

Once you've submitted your application, this will be received by us and we'll start to process it.

First, we'll undertake initial checks – so make sure that the following aspects of your application are fully completed:

**QUALIFICATIONS:** you'll need a degree and GCSEs at Grade C/4+ in English and Maths (and Science for Primary phase teacher training).

**WORK HISTORY:** you will need to let us know about any previous employment you've had since leaving school. There can be no gaps in your employment history – if there is a period of time when you were not working (for example when you were travelling or having children) then you need to add this information to your application.

**FITNESS TO PRACTICE:** we'll check that you are eligible to train to teach – you need to be a UK citizen or have the right to work in the UK, and will need to tell us about any criminal convictions that you hold.

If any of the above elements are incomplete we'll contact you for further information.

Once we've checked all of the above, we'll then pass your application to one of our Assessment Centres, which include Nottingham Trent University and a number of schools around Nottinghamshire. If you meet the criteria for entry on to the course, you will then be invited for an interview at an Assessment Centre which will include three elements:

1. **A written assessment.** You will be asked to write a response to a broad question relating to teaching and learning on the day of your interview— this helps us to check that your standard of English is sufficient to train to teach. Primary applicants will also have to undertake a Science and Maths ability check.
2. **A mini teach activity.** You'll be asked to prepare a short activity to deliver either to a group of other teacher training applicants or to a small group of children for between 10-25 minutes. The age of the children will be similar to the age range that you are applying to train to teach. This activity helps us to learn more about your ability to plan and be creative, and your confidence in delivering information to other people.
3. **A face-to-face interview.** Your interview will last for around 30 minutes with a range of questions exploring your strengths and understanding of teaching and learning. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions that you might have.

Following your interview, we'll review all of your information and will then choose whether to offer you a place on the PGCE course.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What are my employment prospects as a teacher?**

You are joining the teaching profession at a really exciting time – there has never been so much research and discussion about education! Teaching is an excellent career which offers excellent prospects, numerous progression routes, excellent paid holiday and rewarding salaries (more information is available at [Get Into Teaching - Teacher Pay and Benefits](#)). There are numerous teaching vacancies nationally and locally, and the bursaries offered for teacher training at the moment indicate the high demand for good quality teachers. In the past few years, all of our trainees who wished to progress in to a full time teaching profession have been successful. We'll work with you to explore how to choose a school and role which is right for you in the Spring Term.

## **I haven't completed my degree yet - can I still apply for teacher training?**

Yes – you can let us know what your predicted degree outcome will be and use a key contact from your degree provider as a reference. If you are successful at interview, we would then offer you a place on our course which would be dependent upon you successfully completing your degree.

## **I don't have a Grade C/4+ in English, Maths or Science – can I still train to teach?**

Absolutely – many of our trainees apply when they are in this position and access the course by completing an equivalency course with an assessment at the end. We recommend and accept equivalency certificates for GCSEs which are confirmed via [www.equivalencytesting.com](http://www.equivalencytesting.com) or [www.astarequivalency.co.uk](http://www.astarequivalency.co.uk). These courses can be purchased and completed in your own time – you must complete your GCSE equivalencies before you start the course in August. Please note - Secondary phase teachers only need a Grade C/4+ in English and Mathematics.

## **I have children/family commitments – will I be able to work flexibly on this course?**

Teacher training (and teaching!) is a significant and full-time commitment, and you would be expected to be able to attend all university and school days throughout the year – some of which fall in school holidays. On a typical school placement, trainees would be expected to be in school between 8.15am and 5.00pm, although this can vary depending upon the timings and culture of individual placement schools. You will also have additional independent work to complete in the evenings and/or weekends, such as lesson planning and university assignments. However – if you make good use of your preparation time on placement and utilise good organisational skills in your free time, this is very manageable and rewarding. Many of our trainees in the past have had family commitments and would equate this to a full-time job, and they have successfully completed their training and progressed on to full time work.

## **How far will I have to travel to my placement schools?**

Training within a school setting is a significant part of the PGCE course and as such trainees are expected to live within a reasonable commuting distance of Nottingham Trent University's Clifton Campus and our placement schools. We select placement schools carefully, with travel time being one of the most important considerations. You may be asked to travel for up to an hour for your placement school, but in practice most placements are closer than this. During the Spring Term you will undertake a placement in a second school which may be a little further than your main school – second school placements are selected to ensure that you experience teaching in a range of school contexts. If you have any particular needs with regard to travelling, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can accommodate your circumstances.

## **Do you offer a part-time course?**

At the present time, we are unable to offer a part-time course, but this is something that we are looking to develop in the next few years in partnership with Nottingham Trent University.



# CONTACT US



If you have any further questions about Teacher Training or your application, please do not hesitate to contact us:  
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