

School Experience Prior to Admission 2021

It has always been highly recommended that anyone applying to a teacher education programme undertakes relevant work experience in schools and childcare settings. This experience is important as it helps applicants learn more about the role they will be undertaking and ensure that teaching is a profession they would like to join.

In light of Covid-19, we appreciate that schools and childcare settings may be closed and/or offering restricted or blended learning options. This means they may not have capacity to host work experience students, making it more difficult for applicants to gain work experience.

We do not want these circumstances to deter good applicants from applying to our teacher education programmes starting in 2021. As a result, for teacher education programmes with admissions in 2021, we will be making the following amendments to enable access:

- School experience will continue to be helpful for developing an applicant's understanding of the profession they are joining, but lack of experience in a setting should not prevent applications.
- If an applicant is successful in securing an offer without relevant experience, they will be encouraged to try to gain this during 2021 before starting their course (if Covid-19 restrictions allow them to do so safely).
- For applicants to the undergraduate MA(Hons) programme (who are still in secondary education), peer-mentoring and supporting teaching within your own school (online or in person) are opportunities to develop your school experience. To help facilitate this opportunity please discuss this with the relevant teacher in your school.
- In addition to the above points, applicants should also explain in their personal statement, any wider work (voluntary or paid) with children as part of their applications. This could include holiday camps, kids' clubs, guides and scouts, visits to schools etc. This information will help contextualise your previous experience and reasons for applying to teacher education programmes.