

Professional Graduate Diploma in **ONLINE PRIMARY** Education (PGDE)

Information below is for entry in academic year 2024/2025 only – with term commencing January 2025, part time, online, with full time attendance for placements

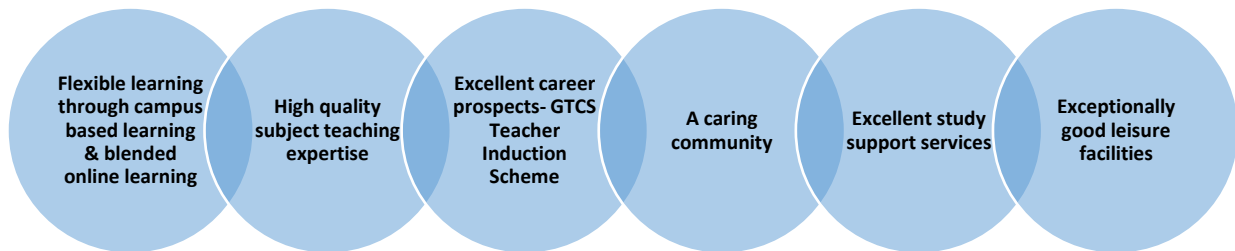
PGDE Online Primary Education- what makes us different?

The PGDE Online Primary programme offers students a blended model of learning. **Students will engage with online learning one or two evenings a week with additional asynchronous learning in addition to these taught sessions.**

During school experience placements, students are required to be in school on a full-time basis. There are two placement periods – each lasting 9 weeks. The first starts in April 2025 through to June 2025. The second placement will commence February 2026 to May 2026, with exact dates confirmed in the 2025/2026 calendar.

The Careers and Employability Service at the University of Aberdeen has put together an online resource to support those interested in the PGDE. More information can be found [here](#).

University of Aberdeen, PGDE Primary, student experience



Who is the PGDE Online Primary programme for?

Eligibility criteria is in place. Students undertaking this online programme **must be resident in Scotland** and this will be verified through the PVG check. More information under **Selection Procedures**.

The University of Aberdeen has a proven ability in developing innovative approaches to Initial Teacher Education. The programme is aimed at graduates who have demonstrated an interest in teaching children through a range of experiences in both formal and informal settings. Our PGDE online primary programme is accredited by the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

Students completing the PGDE programme will be awarded the Professional Graduate Diploma in Primary Education. You will have the opportunity to gain Masters' credits, transferable to further postgraduate study, during the programme in addition to the PGDE qualification.

Students enter the programme with a wide range of background experiences: some are recent graduates and have chosen teaching as their initial career; others are mature students who have decided to pursue a career change at a later stage.

PGDE Primary Education- programme outline

The table below shows the pattern of the course for the part-time online learning route.

Courses	Learning Route
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Education in Context Exploring the Curriculum	Block 1 – January - June; through online learning (both synchronous and asynchronous) and through a 9-week full-time school placement
Informing Professional Practice/ Connecting the Curriculum	Block 2 – through online learning (both synchronous and asynchronous) and through a 9-week full-time school placement
School Experience 1	9 weeks – April 2024 to June 2024 – dates to be confirmed
School Experience 2	9 weeks – February 2025 to May 2025 – dates to be confirmed

The PGDE online programme is 18 months in duration, commencing January 2025 and ends in June 2026. Study is ONLINE on a part time basis and in addition, School Experience placements during the 18-month programme – are FULL TIME within a primary school setting in a local authority school in Scotland.

School Experience placement dates are fixed each year, and each block must be undertaken on a full-time basis.

Assessment

To complete the programme, you will undertake four academic assessments enabling you to learn about educational theory and policy linked to school experience. Your teaching practice will also be assessed during school experience placements.

School Experience

School Experience placements are intimated to students by the University, who work in in close partnership with the GTCS and Local Authorities. These will normally take place in two different schools (1 school for each placement). The placements will be on a full-time basis (it is not possible to undertake the placement section of this course part-time).

Students on the Online Primary PGDE programme can undertake placements anywhere in Scotland. **The national requirement is that no student will be required to travel more than 90 minutes, each way, to a school. For example a student living in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, could be allocated a school experience placement in Perth. A student living in Edinburgh, could be allocated a school experience placement in the Scottish Borders.**

The School Experience placements give students the opportunity to contextualise and make links between the academic course inputs and their developing practice.

Entry Requirements

Successful applicants must, as a minimum, meet the requirements as set by the *Memorandum on Entry Requirements to Courses of Initial Teacher Education in Scotland* produced by the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS), which specifies general entrance requirements for all applicants and subject specific requirements for Secondary applicants. The current version of the Memorandum is dated September 2019 and can be viewed at: [memorandum-on-entry-requirements.pdf \(gtcs.org.uk\)](https://www.gtcs.org.uk/memorandum-on-entry-requirements.pdf)

Applicants to the PGDE should be familiar with using digital technology in order to realise how it can be used to support learning and teaching.

Applicants will also need to demonstrate appropriate interpersonal skills, attributes and dispositions which will allow them to effectively engage with young people, colleagues and school partners.

Top-up courses are allowed; however, graduates will only be allowed a **maximum of 30 credits** and they must be obtained **before** entering the PGDE. This applies to both Primary and Secondary.

Please read in full the information provided in Selection Procedures with regard to Qualifications, Personal Statement, Reference.

For entry to the University of Aberdeen, **all PGDE Online Primary applicants** must have by 31 August 2023 the qualifications as detailed below under **1. Degree**; **2. English** and **3. Maths**. Preference may be given to those who have, by the date of entry, an honours degree. In addition, preference **is most likely** to be given to those holding the English and Mathematics qualifications at the time of application. **Please also note the information provided under 4. and 5.**

It is anticipated that there will be competitive demand for entry in January 2025 for PGDE Online Primary.

1. Degree

- An **undergraduate** degree validated by a University in the United Kingdom or an **undergraduate** degree of an equivalent standard from a higher education system outside the United Kingdom.

2. English at SCQF Level 6

- SCE Higher grade award in English at Grade C or above*; or
- A Level English, Grade D or above; or
- GCSE English Language **AND** English Literature, at Level 4 (previously Grade C) or above **IN BOTH**; or
- O Level English Language **AND** English Literature, Grade C or above or pass **IN BOTH**; or
- Irish Leaving Certificate English at Higher Grade 4 or above or Higher Grade C2 or above; or
- International Baccalaureate English at HL Grade 4 or above; or
- National Course award (Higher Still) in English and Communication at Grade C or above; or
- National Units – Communication (NC) at Higher level and Literature 1 at Higher level **; or
- University of Aberdeen Online English Level 6 at Grade C3 or above, (see next page) or
- English of an equivalent academic standard from **outside** the UK.

*Higher ESOL **NOT** acceptable for entry to PGDE Primary or undergraduate Primary. It is acceptable for PGDE Secondary only

** *Previously known as National Certificate Modules Communication 4 & Literature 1*

3. Mathematics at SCQF Level 5

- National 5 Mathematics at Grade C or above; or
- National 5 Applications of Mathematics (previously known as Lifeskills Mathematics) at Grade C or above; or
- Core Maths 4 Pass; or
- GCSE Mathematics at Level 4, or Grade C or above or Pass; or
- O Level Mathematics at Grade C or above or Pass; or
- Irish Leaving Certificate Mathematics at Ordinary Grade 3 or above or Ordinary Grade B or above; or
- International Baccalaureate Maths or Maths Studies at SL Grade 4 or above; or
- National Course Award Intermediate Level 2 Mathematics at Grade C or above; or
- SCE Standard grade (credit level) award in Mathematics at Grade 2 or above; or
- SCE Ordinary grade award in Mathematics at Grade C or above or Pass; or
- Open University Course – MU123 Discovering Mathematics#, Pass; or
- University of Aberdeen Online Maths Level 5 at Grade C3 or above, (see next page) or
- Mathematics of an equivalent academic standard from **outside** the UK.

Please note that with regard to OU MU123 – the course generally starts in January each year with exam results issued in the December of the same year.

The following are **not accepted** as a Mathematics qualification at the University of Aberdeen: Standard Grade 3 or below, GCSE Grade D or below, CSE Grade 1, O Level Grade 3.

The University will consult UK ENIC (The UK National Information Centre for global qualifications and skills), formerly known as UK NARIC, to determine whether or not qualifications achieved outside the UK meet the entry requirements detailed above.

4. Language/Science

In addressing the Scottish Government Languages Working Group report; Language Learning in Scotland A 1+2 Approach (2012) and the STEM Education and Training Strategy, the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) encourage universities to expect at least one SCQF Level 5 (e.g. National 5) qualification in either a modern language and / or a science subject.

5. Educational Background

Universities are required to ensure that an applicant's educational background (including the content of the undergraduate degree), provides a good basis for becoming a primary teacher. The University of Aberdeen will therefore look for evidence that an applicant has studied at least two of the following areas (as well as English and Mathematics) – science, social studies, expressive arts, religious and moral education, technology and modern foreign languages.

University of Aberdeen Online English and Mathematics

The University of Aberdeen has launched three online access courses, one in English at SCQF Level 6 and two in Mathematics, one at SCQF Level 6 and one at SCQF Level 5. All three are accepted by the University of Aberdeen for entry to teacher education. Achievement must be in place no later than 31 August 2022.

We ask for Grade C3 or better for English and Maths so this is Grade A1, A2, A3 or Grade B1, B2, B3 or Grade C1, C2, C3.

Full information on the Online provision, including costs, can be found at www.abdn.ac.uk/study/online/access-courses.php

Previous Initial Teacher Education Study

The University of Aberdeen requires that applicants who have failed the PGDE Programme, or any programme of Initial Teacher Education at the University of Aberdeen, or elsewhere, or who have withdrawn from a programme whilst making unsatisfactory progress, must wait 3 years before applying for PGDE study at Aberdeen. If reapplying, candidates must provide evidence prior to interview that they have taken action to address previously unsatisfactory performance.

Career Prospects

Students who successfully complete the PGDE Online Programme and choose to opt into the GTCS Induction Scheme which provides a guaranteed one-year training place to every eligible ** student. Students graduating with a Teaching Qualification from a Scottish Higher Education Institution are placed in a school by the General Teaching Council for Scotland in association with Local Authorities, on a full-time basis for one year. During this time, beginner teachers are required to meet the General Teaching Council for Scotland 'Standard for Full Registration.' Having attained the status of Full Registration, individuals are then eligible to apply for a permanent teaching post. Further information can be obtained from www.gtcs.org.uk

Information on eligibility criteria and details about the Induction Scheme may be obtained from the Scottish Executive web site or their information leaflet Teacher Induction Scheme, details of both on the last page.

** Eligibility will normally be restricted to those students graduating from a Scottish Higher Education Institution with a Teaching Qualification whose training has been publicly funded. This includes students from other parts of the UK and other parts of the EU provided they have been assessed as eligible for Home Fees. This is regardless of how these fees are funded i.e. through SAAS, Local Education Authority, Self-Funded, Northern Ireland Education and Library Boards and so on.

Students who pay overseas or full fees are not in publicly funded places and are therefore not eligible to join the Teacher Induction Scheme. An Induction Year post will therefore not be allocated.

How to Apply to the Online Programme

For entry in January 2025 you apply online through UCAS (www.ucas.com). Telephone: 0371 4680468.

Please note the following:

1. You must select the **UCAS Undergraduate route**.
Please do not apply via UCAS Teacher Training to any Scottish institution offering the one-year graduate teaching programme.
2. **You must apply by 6pm on Wednesday 31 January 2024.**
3. **The UCAS programme code to select is X110.**

4. You can also apply to the full time on campus programme X100 – more information can be found at www.abdn.ac.uk/pgt/primary. Please note however that if you apply for both – you will only be invited for one interview. If invited and if successful after interview in receiving an offer of admission, you would be required to advise which degree the offer is for X110 or X100.

Applicants to UCAS are required and expected to detail full academic history. This is essential for the reasons listed 1 to 5 on the previous page.

Applications to Aberdeen, received from UCAS, will be acknowledged by the University of Aberdeen by email.

The information declared to UCAS will be used by the University of Aberdeen to determine whether or not applicants meet, or will meet the entry requirements. Applications with incomplete qualification information or applications that do not demonstrate ability to meet the entry requirements with regard to 1 to 5 on the previous page, will be rejected.

The official closing date for applications is 6pm on Wednesday 31 January 2024. This is known as the equal consideration date and guarantees that all applications received by this date will be considered. Applications received after this date are unlikely to be considered as we expect to close the programme to new applications.

Please note that direct applications made directly to the University of Aberdeen will not be accepted.

Please note that applications for deferred entry to January 2026 will not be accepted.

Selection Procedures

Qualifications, Personal Statement, Reference

Applicants for the PGDE programme must first demonstrate that they will be able to meet the entry requirements (as previously outlined under points 1 to 5.). The University of Aberdeen usually expects to see in the Personal Statement reference to **significant mainstream** Primary classroom experience and that applicants **reflect** upon this as appropriate when they are applying for the Primary programme. The duration and length of experiences should be detailed in the Personal Statement. Consideration is then given to the content of the application and the skills and experience relevant to teaching. We will take into consideration the impact on Covid-19 on your ability to gain classroom experience prior to application but encourage you to draw on any previous experience you have had before the pandemic (Please see additional guidance below). References for applications to the PGDE should be Academic or Professional in nature (for example a University Tutor or Employer). Where applicants have gained recent experience in a mainstream school setting, it is recommended that a reference is given from School Staff. The referee should have had contact with the applicant within the past 5 years. References will not be accepted from family, friends or acquaintances.

Meeting the minimum entry requirements does not entitle an applicant to an interview or an offer of admission. The Personal Statement plays a critical role in determining suitability to be invited for interview.

Selected applicants are invited to attend an interview to gauge suitability for entry to initial teacher education.

Where a degree qualification is an undergraduate degree, preference may be given to those who have, by the date of entry, an honours degree. In addition, preference **is most likely** to be given to those holding the English and Mathematics qualifications at the time of application.

School Experience Prior to Admission

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. As a result, for teacher education programmes 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 2024 before starting their course (if Covid-19 restrictions allow them to do so safely).
- 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.

Interviews

Not all who apply will be invited for interview. As detailed above, selected applicants are invited to attend an interview to gauge suitability for entry to initial teacher education.

Following the interviews, and based on the number of places available, offers are made via UCAS. Offers will either be unconditional or conditional. All entrants to the PGDE programme must hold the relevant entry requirements prior to commencement of studies. Places available are set by the Scottish Government, through the Scottish Funding Council and Universities are advised of their allocated places, usually in the February of each year. Under the UCAS protocols, those who apply by 6pm on 31 January 2024 should receive a decision by May 2024.

Interviews, will generally be held online via Microsoft Teams. If you are invited to interview you will receive additional guidance about the process.

Only one interview will take place. In the event of applicants being unsuccessful after interview, applicants will need to wait until a new admissions cycle to apply again to be considered. A further application, via Late or Extra or Clearing for example, in the same cycle, will not lead to a further interview invite being issued or an offer of admission.

PVG Check

A Protection of Vulnerable Group (PVG) check through Disclosure Scotland will be conducted by the University prior to final acceptance. **The PVG check will also evidence residency in Scotland.** This is required of all applicants who accept an offer of admission for PGDE Online Primary, even those who have been checked previously. For UK applicants, resident in Scotland, who have lived outside the UK for any period of time, in accepting an offer of admission, an Enhanced criminal record check through Disclosure Scotland will be conducted and in addition, it will be necessary for the applicant to obtain a criminal record check from the country they are from/lived in.

Funding for part-time online Students

Applicants accepted onto the programme apply to either the Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) or their Local Education Authority for assistance with fees.

Full information regarding the SAAS part-time fee grant can be found at: www.abdn.ac.uk/students/finance/parttime-students.php

Information relating to Tuition Fees will be finalised in the Spring of each year and provided at: www.abdn.ac.uk/students/finance/tuition-fees.php Applicants from England, Wales and Northern Ireland should note that the study bursary offered to postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) students studying in England, Wales or Northern Ireland does not apply if they accept an offer of a place at a Scottish institution.

Teaching outwith Scotland

Should you wish to teach outwith Scotland with a teaching qualification gained in Scotland you need to check its acceptability with the Education Authority of the country you wish to teach in; this includes England, Wales, Northern Ireland and European Union countries. The PGDE degree programme at Aberdeen is worth 120 credit points which is equivalent to 60 ECTS.

For More Information

If you require further information relating to your qualification for the English or Maths requirement, or if your qualification is equivalent to degree level, or if you have non-UK qualifications, please contact the PGDE Primary Admissions Co-ordinator, Hazel Seymour (hazel.seymour@abdn.ac.uk), in the first instance.

Admissions Office, Directorate of Student Recruitment
University of Aberdeen
University Office, Regent Walk, King's College, Aberdeen, AB24 3TX
Email: ugadmissions@abdn.ac.uk
Web: www.abdn.ac.uk/study

Visit the websites:

www.teachinscotland.scot www.teachinscotland.scot/become-a-teacher/primary

www.saas.gov.uk

www.scotland.gov.uk

www.abdn.ac.uk/education

www.gtcs.org.uk

www.disclosurescotland.co.uk

November 2023