

## Professional Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education (PGDE)

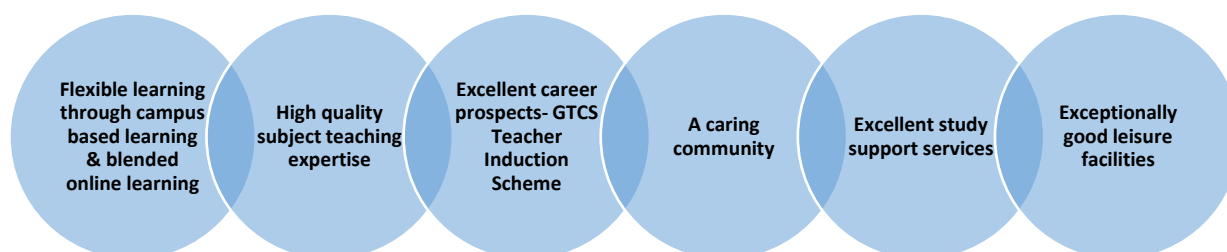
**Information below is for entry in academic year 2019/2020 only**

The GTCS are reviewing the minimum entry requirements for academic year 2020/2021, information expected May 2019

### PGDE Secondary Education- what makes us different?

The PGDE Secondary full time programme offers students a blended model of learning. During campus based weeks, students will be on campus for two consecutive days (either Tuesday & Wednesday or Wednesday & Thursday). **Beyond this, students will engage with online learning at a time and place of their choice.** This structure is designed to offer individuals flexibility, whilst being committed to the requirements of the full time PGDE programme. During school experience placements, students are required to be in school on a full time basis.

### University of Aberdeen, PGDE Secondary, student experience



### Who is the PGDE Secondary programme for?

The University of Aberdeen has a proven ability in developing innovative approaches to Initial Teacher Education. The programme is aimed at Graduates with relevant subject content in their academic study, who have demonstrated an interest in teaching children through a range of experiences in both formal and informal settings. The Programme is accredited by the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

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

**A one year, full-time campus based learning and blended online learning programme, and an 18-month distance learning route are available. Both routes incorporate school experience placements.**

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.

The table below indicates the subjects currently available (at time of printing) and whether these are through the full-time or distance learning route.

*Please note that not all distance learning options run each year.*

Subject	Full-time (1 year)	Distance Learning (18-months)
Biology with Science	✓	-
Business Education	✓	-
Chemistry with Science	✓	-
Drama	✓	-
English	✓	-

Geography ###	✓	-
History ###	✓	-
Home Economics	✓	-
Mandarin	✓	-
Mathematics	✓	-
Modern Languages ##	✓	-
Modern Studies ###	✓	-
Music	✓	-
Physics with Science	✓	-
Religious Education (RMPS)	✓	-

# Applicants can only apply where a partnership agreement exists between the Local Authority and the University – currently Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Highland, Moray.

## French, German. Spanish is offered as a subsidiary subject.

### Dual qualification is available in any two of these subjects: e.g., History and Modern Studies or Geography and History, etc.

## PGDE Secondary Education- programme outline

The table below shows the pattern of the courses for the full-time and distance learning routes.

Course	Full-time Route	Distance Learning Route
<i>Learning and Teaching in Schools: Beginning to Teach</i>	<i>Semester 1 – Mid August to mid-December; through campus based learning, blended online learning and school placement</i>	<i>Year 1 – through distance learning methods and network days</i>
<i>Learning and Teaching in Schools: The Developing Professional</i>	<i>Semester 2 – Early January to beginning of June; through campus based learning, blended online learning and school placement</i>	<i>Year 2 - through distance learning methods and network days</i>
<i>School Experience 1*</i>	<i>10 weeks during semester 1, split into small blocks</i>	<i>10 weeks during year 1 – split into three blocks of 2 weeks, 4 weeks and 4 weeks in length</i>
<i>School Experience 2*</i>	<i>8 weeks during semester 2, split into smaller blocks</i>	<i>8 weeks during year 2 – split into two blocks, 4 weeks in length</i>

\* Dates are subject to change depending on calendar variations and Local Authority school holiday patterns

**The full-time PGDE programme starts on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Online registration will be available during week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**

**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 which is linked to school experience. Your teaching practice will 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.

The School of Education has formal partnerships with Local Authorities from Shetland to Fife and students on the PGDE Programme could be placed in any of these authorities for school experience. **Whilst it cannot be guaranteed that you will be placed in your home authority, your personal information will be used to inform the process.** The national requirement is that no student will be required to travel more than 90 minutes, each way, to a school.

The School Experience placements give students the opportunity to contextualise and make links between the academic course inputs and their developing practice. The placement dates are fixed each year, and each block must be undertaken on a full-time basis.

## 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 June 2013, with a revision in September 2015 relating to Religious Education and a revision in June 2016 relating to GCSE English and Maths grading.

Applicants to the PGDE should be familiar with using information and communications technology (ICT) in order to realise how it can be used for learning and teaching.

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.

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

For entry to the University of Aberdeen, **all PGDE Secondary applicants** must have by the date term commences, the qualifications as detailed below.

### Degree

A degree validated by a Higher Education Institution in the United Kingdom or a degree of an equivalent standard from outside the United Kingdom. In addition, for Secondary applicants, the degree should minimally contain 80 SCQF credit points relevant to the teaching qualification or qualifications being studied; more information is below. 40 of the credit points must have been studied at SCQF level 8 or above. Credit from a Master's degree may be considered, but applicants will need to demonstrate that the qualification held has a direct relevance in terms of credit, to the teaching of the subject for which application is being made.

Some credit points are acceptable for entry to more than one teaching subject. If a student wants a teaching qualification in more than one subject, appropriate credit points can be counted for entry to all subjects. Detailed information on Education in Scotland can be found at [www.gtcs.org.uk/education-in-scotland/education-in-scotland.aspx](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/education-in-scotland/education-in-scotland.aspx)

### English at SCFQ Level 6

- SCE Higher grade award in English at Grade C or above; or
- SCE Higher ESOL\* 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
- 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 below) or
- English of an equivalent academic standard from **outside** the UK.

\*Higher ESOL acceptable for entry to PGDE Secondary only

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

### 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
- 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 below) 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 NARIC (The National Academic Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom), to determine whether or not qualifications achieved outside the UK meet the entry requirements detailed above.

### **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.

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

### **Content of your Degree**

The content of your degree must contain specific subject studies which are relevant to the intended teaching qualification. It must also be of appropriate breadth and depth for teaching the subject in Scottish secondary schools. **The information given below is correct as at time of printing; however, please check the GTCS website for details on the minimum entry requirements for specific subjects.**

For all subjects, a minimum of 80 SCQF credit points must be relevant to the teaching subjects or subjects you wish to teach, and at least 50 of the credits must be as part of a degree. The 80 credits should normally be part of an undergraduate degree, but exceptions may apply. 40 of the credit points must have been studied at SCQF Level 8 or above. The degree content should **reflect** the curricular subject requirements.

Top-up courses required to meet specific subject requirements will be accepted up to a maximum of 30 credits and they must be obtained before entering a PGDE course. A full-time academic year in Scotland normally allows you to take 120 credit points.

The following secondary subjects have specific requirements in addition to those stated above: Business Education; Drama; English; Home Economics; Modern Foreign Languages; Modern Studies; Music, Physics; and Religious Education.

### **Business Education**

You must have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points coming from subjects in the following:

- (1) Accounting;
- (2) Economics;
- (3) Information Technology and Business Management

## **Drama**

Applicants must have at least 40 credit points in the practical aspects of Drama such as stage design or directing.

## **English**

You must have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points in English, of which at least 40 SCQF credit points must be in English literature or Scottish literature.

## **Home Economics**

You must have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points, including 40 SCQF credit points at SCQF Level 8 (or above) from at least two of:

Consumer studies; food studies; food or textile technology; nutrition.

A further 40 credits are needed in any Home Economics area relevant to the Home Economics curriculum in Scottish schools.

The following provides guidance for applicants on areas other than those listed above, relevant to Home Economics.

- Family Studies - Parenting; Childhood Studies; Family Lifestyles Socio-Economic Influences; Environmental Issues.
- Food Sciences - Food Chemistry; Composition of Foods; Functions of Food; Processing and Manufacture of Foodstuffs; Functional Properties of Foods; Biotechnology; Microbiology
- Health - Health Promotion; Health Education; Determinants of Health; Lifestyles and Health; Environmental Issues; Health and Food Policies.
- Hospitality - Practical Food Preparation Skills; Food Presentation Techniques; Food and Beverage Management.
- Textile Studies – Textile Construction; Properties; Finishes; Contemporary Developments; Production Systems; Textile Futures; Design Technologies.

## **Modern Foreign Languages**

Where possible, you should offer more than one language. For the first language offered, you must:

- Have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points in the language you want to teach
- Have lived for 6 months in a country where the language is spoken before you commence the PGDE programme
- Prove to the University of Aberdeen that you are competent in speaking the relevant language

Your academic study must include an element which allows you to contribute to the wider aspects of programmes of study in schools, such as literature, cultural studies, area studies or languages in work.

While living abroad, you must have fully taken part in the language and culture of the relevant country.

You must normally live in the relevant country in blocks of at least 3 months. Applicants who have spent one of their study years abroad will be considered as having met the residency requirement in the language in question.

For the second language offered, you must meet the conditions for the first language and must also:-

- Have a degree with 80 SCQF credit points in the second language you want to teach
- Have lived for at least 3 months in a country where the language is spoken before starting the course
- Prove to the University of Aberdeen that you are competent in speaking the relevant language

Your academic study must include an element which allows you to contribute to the wider aspects of programmes of study in schools, such as literature, cultural studies, area studies or languages in work.

While living abroad, you must have fully taken part in the language and culture of the relevant country.

The period of three months must either be consecutive or in blocks of at least four weeks.

The GTCS will answer any questions about registration and residency requirements for second languages. Their web address is provided on the last page.

Native speakers of a modern foreign language who have finished a degree in their own language which meets the entry requirements in paragraph 1 above, may train to teach their native language.

Students who are native speakers of a modern foreign language and have a degree in a language other than their native tongue, which meets the entry requirements in paragraph 1 above, may train to teach that language plus their native language. For example, a French student with a degree in German can train to teach German and French in Scotland.

### Modern Studies

You must have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points from two separate subjects listed below.

At least 40 SCQF credit points must be from either Politics or Sociology:-

Economics	Geography	History or Economic History
International Relations	Law	Politics
Sociology	Social Policy	

### Music

You must have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points in music and which includes studying music over at least three years. The degree must include the following:-

- (i) the study of harmony, counterpoint, arrangement, orchestration and composition, together with a broad study of music in its social and historical contexts within traditional, ethnic and non western musical cultures.
- (ii) keyboard studies including sight reading, playing by ear, accompanying, harmonising and improvising in traditional and contemporary styles.
- (iii) studying an instrument or voice to an advanced standard. You will have to prove you have experience of an instrument or of voice according to the following table:-

Specialist Subject	Extra Experience Needed
Voice	an instrument (non keyboard)
Instrument	solo singing or taking part in choral work (during time of study)
Keyboard	an instrument (non keyboard)

You must meet all the requirements of (i) and (ii). If you do not meet all of the requirements in (iii) you may have to pass an entrance exam in areas in which you lack experience.

You will have to prove to the University of Aberdeen that you are familiar with and can use music technology.

### Physics

In addition to having a degree with at least 80 SCQF credits relevant to the curricular subject requirements, you must have covered aspects of kinematics, electricity, or electronics and radiation within your degree.

### Religious Education

Applicants must have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points from two or more of the areas listed below:-

Religious Studies	Philosophy	Theology
Divinity	Sociology of Religion	Anthropology of Religion
Psychology of Religion		

Applicants wishing specifically to teach Religious Education in Catholic schools must have a degree with at least 80 SCQF credit points in:-

Religious Studies	Theology	Divinity
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Which may include a maximum of 20 credit points in Philosophy related to religion.

## Career Prospects

Students who successfully complete the PGDE 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](http://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 Full-time Programme

For entry in August 2019, you apply online through UCAS Rosehill, New Barn Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 3LZ. ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)) . Telephone: 0371 4680468.

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.**

Applicants to UCAS are required and expected to detail full academic history. The information declared to UCAS will be used by the University of Aberdeen to determine whether or not applicants meet, or will meet the minimum entry requirements. Applications with incomplete qualification information or applications that do not demonstrate ability to meet the minimum entry requirements will be rejected.

Applications received from UCAS will be acknowledged by email. Applicants will be asked to submit information on degree transcripts. This information is essential to enable the application to progress.

It is worth noting that demand for places can be particularly high for some Secondary subjects.

**The official closing date is 15 January 2019. This is the date by which all applications received will be considered. Applications received after this date will only be considered if vacancies are still advertised.**

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

Please note that applications for deferred entry to August 2020 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 minimum entry requirements (as previously outlined). The University of Aberdeen expects to see in the Personal Statement reference to **significant mainstream** Secondary classroom experience and that applicants **reflect** upon this as appropriate when they are applying for the Secondary programme. Duration and length of each experience 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. 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.



### 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 15 January 2019 should receive a decision by 31 March 2019.

Interviews, face to face, take place in Aberdeen - the normal location is within the School of Education, based in the MacRobert building. Interviews by Skype will be arranged in exceptional cases and only for those who are overseas or who are living outside the EU. All other applicants invited for interview will be expected to travel to Aberdeen.

**Distance Learning applicants** will initially apply through their supporting Local Authority. Applicants will be offered places **only** with the agreement of their Local Authority to support their School Experience placements.

### PVG Check

A Protection of Vulnerable Group (PVG) check through Disclosure Scotland will be conducted by the University prior to final acceptance. This is required of all applicants who accept an offer of admission, even those who have been checked previously. For non UK applicants, or UK applicants 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 Full-time 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.

Information relating to Tuition Fees will be finalised in the Spring of each year and provided at: [www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/finance/fee-rates.php](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/finance/fee-rates.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.

## **Funding for Distance Learners, where appropriate**

Distance Learning students should apply for the Part Time Fee Grant (replaces ILA500), through SAAS. The Part Time Fee Grant is for people who have an income of approximately £25,000 a year or less and meet SAAS residence conditions. [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

## **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, the PGDE Admissions Co-ordinator, Cathy Reid ([c.a.reid@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:c.a.reid@abdn.ac.uk)), can provide guidance.



If you wish to find out whether or not your degree contains the necessary credits in order to teach a particular subject, please email [pgde@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:pgde@abdn.ac.uk) or telephone 01224 274637 and your enquiry will be sent to the most appropriate subject specialist.

Admissions, Directorate of Marketing and Student Recruitment, University of Aberdeen  
University Office, Regent Walk, King's College, Aberdeen, AB24 3TX

**Tel: +44 (0) 1224 273504**

**Email: [ugadmissions@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:ugadmissions@abdn.ac.uk)**

**Web: [www.abdn.ac.uk/study](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study)**

Visit the websites:

[www.teachinscotland.org](http://www.teachinscotland.org)

[www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

[www.abdn.ac.uk/education](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/education)

[www.gtcs.org.uk](http://www.gtcs.org.uk)

[www.disclosurescotland.co.uk](http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk)

**14 January 2019**