

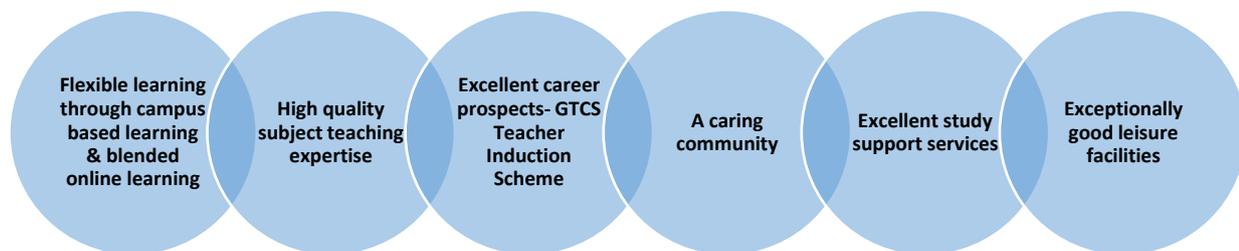
## Professional Graduate Diploma in Primary Education (PGDE)

Information below is for entry in academic year 2020/2021 only

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

The PGDE Primary full time programme offers students a blended model of learning. During campus based weeks, students will be on campus for up to five days, Monday through to Friday. **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, with the exception of Placement+ days. On these 10 Placement+ days, (5 in each placement) students work from home, where they meet online with their University tutor, and tutorial group, in order to discuss the essential links between theory and practice. These LinC (Learning in Context) tutors will provide consistent relational support across the whole PGDE year.

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



### Who is the PGDE Primary programme for?

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. The 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 Master's 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.

**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.**

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

### PGDE Primary Education- programme outline

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

Courses	Full-time Route	Distance Learning Route
Education in Context Exploring the Curriculum	Semester 1 – Mid August to mid December; through campus based learning, blended online learning and school placement	Year 1 – through distance learning methods and network days

Informing Professional Practice/ Connecting the Curriculum	Semester 2 – Early January to beginning of June; through campus based learning, blended online learning and school placement	Year 2 - through distance learning methods and network days
School Experience 1	There will be a change to the current School Experience pattern. The expected arrangement will be for 21 weeks of placement split evenly over both Semesters. This is an increase of 3 weeks, including the Placement+ days online.	
<i>School Experience 2</i>		

**The full-time PGDE programme starts on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Online registration will be available towards the end of week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020.**

**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 September 2019 and can be viewed at: [www.gtcs.org.uk/web/FILES/about-gtcs/memorandum-on-entry-requirements.pdf](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/web/FILES/about-gtcs/memorandum-on-entry-requirements.pdf)

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. Applicants must be competent in the use of Digital Technology.

Applicants will also need to demonstrate appropriate interpersonal skills, attributes and dispositions which will allow them to engage young people, colleagues and partners in effective collaboration.

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 Primary applicants** must have by the date term commences, 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 August 2020 for PGDE 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 SCFQ 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
- 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
- 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 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.

#### 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.

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.

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.

## **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 2020, 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. This is essential for the reasons listed 1 to 5 on the previous page.**

Applications to Aberdeen, received from UCAS, will be acknowledged 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 is 15 January 2020. 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 2021 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 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. Primary classroom experience should cover as broad a curriculum spread as possible. 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.

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.

### 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 2020 should receive a decision by 31 March 2020.

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, please contact the PGDE Primary Admissions Assistant, Alex Kierzek ([a.kierzek@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:a.kierzek@abdn.ac.uk)), in the first instance.

Admissions Office, 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)  
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