

Concorde Partnership PGCE School Direct training to teach 2WQF Biology 2016-17

Training Provider Information

About the Partnership

The Concorde Partnership is based on shared 14-19 education between 5 local institutions with a common vision and approach:

The Olympus Academy Trust has 2 good secondary schools, Abbeywood Community School and Bradley Stoke Community School. Abbeywood and Bradley Stoke Community Schools are in brand new buildings with purpose-built facilities.

The Fusion Academy Trust is responsible for Patchway Community College which is in older buildings but also a good school and well established in the local area.

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College has hubs in Filton and Stroud and is principally a provider of Post 16 education but is also responsible for a brand new UTC (University Technology College specialist 14-19 provider) which is about to be built in Berkeley, north of Bristol, and which will require specialist Physics teachers when it opens. It was recently judged to be good with outstanding aspects.

The newest member of the Concorde Partnership is Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy which is also a UTC and opened in 2013. It provides an engineering-based curriculum for 14-19 year olds who join from schools across the West of England. It is in new, purpose-built specialist facilities adjacent to Abbeywood Community School and South Gloucestershire and Stroud College's Stoke Gifford campus. It was judged to be providing a good education at its first inspection recently.

The member institutions of the Concorde Partnership are all within 3 miles of one another and are fully committed to working in partnership together. Students have the opportunity to study in other centres from age 14 and in some cases courses are shared between institutions with teaching taking place in 2 centres. This requires planning and collaboration. Trainees will get access to this level of partnership working and the diversity of learning that it can provide.

www.abbeywoodschool.com

www.bradleystokecs.org.uk

www.sgscol.ac.uk

www.bteacademy.co.uk

www.patchwaycc.com

Accommodation

We are unable to provide accommodation

Child Care Facilities

We are unable to provide child care facilities but may be able to signpost towards local provision.

Disability Access

We are able to provide full access and support for disabilities - please ask for further information.

Public Transport

There are good public transport links around our centres and they are close together. Further information can be provided on request.

Special Features

There will be an opportunity to spend time in a primary school and some trainees may also visit other institutions, such as special schools or colleges of further education. We have a UTC (specialist engineering centre) in our partnership which will appeal to some trainees for a placement.

Student Facilities

We are very close to the University of the West of England and within easy reach of Bristol city centre. Trainees will have access to study facilities at the university.

Study Facilities

There will be space for trainees to study within a school setting but all trainees will also have access to the library at the university which is close at hand. Much of the training time will be spent in the specialist Science areas in the schools.

Where to Find Us

We are very close to the University of the West of England and all our centres are within 3 miles of one another. Maps and directions are available on each centre's website.

Why train with us?

We are able to provide a unique learning experience, which will provide diverse opportunities through school-based training, whilst also offering links to the expertise of the University of the West of England for aspects of the core teacher training programme. There will be opportunities to learn with other trainees via the Cabot Learning Federation, which is a large provider of School Direct training for other subjects in the local area. You will be part of a cohort of up to 70 PGCE students training for Primary Teaching and, at Secondary, in Product Design/Design Technology, Mathematics, English, Computer Science, Chemistry, Biology and Physics.

The Concorde Partnership is geographically the closest group of providers of secondary education to the University of the West of England. This enables trainees to benefit from the learning facilities at the university, whilst having ease of access to the teaching facilities in the schools and college.

The Concorde Partnership is based on shared 14-19 education between 5 local institutions with a common vision and approach. There is diversity in the providers and the courses they offer. The tutors for the Biology PGCE programme will be based at Abbeywood Community School, Bradley Stoke Community School and Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy where they teach for most of the week. As such, they are expert practitioners who will support trainees in becoming members of the Science and Biology teaching teams in the three schools during the year. Many of the teaching staff have been mentors for PGCE students over the years and are confident and skilled in school-based aspects of the training programme.

The programme will offer exposure to a number of different settings, with placements in two of them, in addition to training time at UWE and with the cohort of trainees at the Cabot Learning Federation.

What We Are Looking For

We are looking for creative and dynamic individuals who can motivate

Entry Requirements

Applicants normally have: A good honours degree (normally 2:1 minimum) with at least 50 per cent in a related subject of your PGCE. There are opportunities in some subjects to attend a Subject Knowledge Enhancement course before starting your PGCE. If you need to boost your knowledge prior to the start of the PGCE there are [Subject Knowledge Enhancement \(SKE\)](#) courses in Biology which are fully funded for some subjects. Please discuss your needs with Jenny Sutton Kirby

(jenny.suttonkirby@bradleystokecs.org.uk). Please see www.gov.uk/government/publications/subject-knowledge-enhancement-course-directory for a full list.

All applicants should also have GCSE grade C or above in mathematics and English language.

You should be able to demonstrate recent experience of observing or supporting teaching in your subject area. This must be conducted in a comprehensive school (minimum of 10 working days or two weeks equivalent within the last three years).

Please note that this course starts in late August with an induction week. We are unable to agree any requests for holiday due to the number of days required to complete the course.

You can apply through [UCAS Teacher Training](#) now to start in 2016. There are a limited number of places for the programme, so you should apply as early as possible to give yourself the best chance of obtaining a place. We will close the course once we have filled all available places. Please read through the [UCAS Teacher Training](#) pages carefully for guidance on how to apply. If you have any specific questions these should be directed to Jenny Sutton Kirby (jenny.suttonkirby@bradleystokecs.org.uk)

Additional Requirements

Applicants must pass an initial selection process and short-listed candidates will be invited for interview. All offers will be subject to satisfactory health checks.

Disclosure of Criminal Background

Applicants who are offered a place must undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and will be required to complete a Disclosure Application Form. All information will be treated in confidence and only taken into account when absolutely necessary.

If you would like information regarding issues that could disqualify you from teaching training, please contact us on +44 (0)1454 868872 or contact Jenny Sutton Kirby on jenny.suttonkirby@bradleystokecs.org.uk.

Department for Education Professional Skills Tests

All trainee teachers are required to pass skills tests in numeracy and literacy before they can be recommended for the award of qualified teacher status (QTS) and before starting their course. We recommend that you complete the skills tests in Numeracy and Literacy as soon as possible after you have submitted an application for an Initial Teacher Education programme. If practical, you should take these tests before any interview that you may be invited for, but if this is not possible, you should take them as soon as possible thereafter. If you have not passed the tests at the interview stage, any offer will be conditional until you have passed both tests. You will need to pass both tests by 30th June. Information about the tests can be found at [The Department for Education](#).

Standards and Requirements

Following the review of Standards and Requirements for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) by the Secretary of State in 2012 (revised in June 2013), our full-time courses have been designed to be compliant with the [latest standards and requirements](#).

Deferrals

The Department of Education is not able to approve deferrals under any circumstances. Applicants unable to start their programme during the year of application will be required to withdraw and re-apply the following year.

For Further Information

Telephone: +44 (0)1454 868872 E-mail: If you have any specific questions these should be directed to Jenny Sutton Kirby (jenny.suttonkirby@bradleystokecs.org.uk)

What We Are Looking For

We are looking for creative and dynamic individuals who can motivate and inspire young people. We are looking for ambitious trainee teachers who are passionate and enthusiastic about their chosen subject and have a desire to share that with young people of all abilities in the secondary age range. Resilience and determination, self-awareness and willingness to learn through success and mistakes are essential personal attributes for a career in teaching. In your application you should demonstrate that you have had meaningful experience of working with young people of secondary age. For example, you may have been involved with some work with young people in previous jobs or on a voluntary basis. You may have direct experience in schools through visits which you have organised or through some other scheme. We will also expect you to be able to write in your application about what interests you in teaching, what you think you have to offer and what you think you have to learn.

We will expect you to show a commitment to the subject you are applying for and demonstrate a suitable background experience in it. Your first degree needs to be in a relevant subject - for more details of this you should contact us if you are unsure of the suitability of the degree subject you have studied. We will expect you to have some basic ICT skills to build on but will not necessarily expect these to be directly linked to how ICT is used in teaching that will be part of your work on the programme.

We expect applicants to come from a wide range of backgrounds and, therefore, with a wide range of skills. This is a strength of the programme as it allows us to use your differences so that you can learn from one another. Some trainee teachers will be coming straight from a first degree, some will be making a fairly early career change, some will be returning to study and work after spending time bringing up children and some will be changing career later in life. All are very welcome and we believe our School Direct Programme is enriched by this variety.

The Aims of the Programme

We will support you in becoming a confident, competent, creative and effective teacher of Physics in secondary schools; you will develop your practical knowledge and theoretical understanding to successfully work with secondary school children. We will enable you to continue your professional development in order that you can become an innovator, capable of active involvement in the future evolution of the subject.

How We Select Our Trainees

How to Apply

You can apply through UCAS Teacher Training now to start in 2016. There are a limited number of places for the programme, so you should apply as early as possible to give yourself the best chance of obtaining a place. We will close the course once we have filled all available places. Please read through the UCAS Teacher Training pages carefully for guidance on how to apply.

The Selection Process

Applicants must pass an initial selection process and short-listed candidates will be invited for interview, which may include some observed activities in the classroom. All offers will be subject to satisfactory health checks.

About this Training Programme

The Secondary School Direct Postgraduate Certificate in Education is a one academic year (37-week) course that trains graduates to be secondary school teachers of Physics. You may also be trained to teach Science at Key Stage 3 as most schools offer a general KS3 science programme, and indeed some organise their KS4 curriculum so that teachers deliver all Science disciplines. The PGCE programme has been designed to train teachers for the full secondary age phase (11-18). You are assessed against the standards for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in two key stages, normally KS3 and KS4. Additionally you will be given the opportunity to engage in some observation and teaching at Post 16 in AS/A2 (the schools offer a range of courses at Post 16 including Applied Science and BTEC Science) and also in primary settings if that interests you. As a core subject, it is essential that you acquire skills to make the subject relevant to and interesting for all students and have an empathy for students who may find Biology and Science difficult to learn and apply as well as having the skills to challenge the most able. The course offers an exciting and developmental model of training to teach Physics with an emphasis on developing your professional competence alongside ensuring a high level of knowledge, skills and understanding. This is also underpinned by a clear understanding of the philosophy of teaching Biology and Science across the age and ability range. The course is just the beginning of what we hope will be a process of continual professional development throughout a challenging and rewarding career.

Structure: Content

The PGCE in Biology can offer you the chance to use your skills and knowledge to help young people become effective citizens of the 21st century.

The course will train you to teach Biology to all abilities and ages in the Secondary Phase. You will develop your understanding of the Biology and Science curriculums through practical workshops and activities. You will learn how to plan, prepare and teach effective and successful lessons with practical teaching experience in at least two secondary schools or colleges. You will be trained in all essential Health and Safety aspects to ensure your practice will keep young people safe while they enjoy their learning. You will become competent in using ICT applications in your teaching. You will be encouraged to work collaboratively and to share your knowledge, skills and understanding with other trainees through small group projects.

If you need to boost your knowledge prior to the start of the PGCE there are Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) courses in Biology available in various locations around the country please speak to us about your requirements.

So, if you are enthusiastic about Biology and have a degree in a suitable specialism or significant experience in an appropriate field in the world of work, why not join a profession that offers a satisfying and exciting future?

Study Time: Personal Support

Although we have links with the university for the accreditation for the programme and there will be academic support linked to that, the great advantage of training with the Concorde Partnership is that it is bespoke and focused on individual trainees as we will have a small cohort who will have a personalised training experience.

Assessment

In order to pass the course, trainees are required to pass each unit. They are assessed on a number of written assignments and also on classroom practice against the standards specified by the Secretary of State for the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

Special Features: Placements

24 weeks are spent on placement: a total of eight weeks in one placement during the autumn term and 16 weeks in a second placement during the spring and summer.

As well as teaching, the programme includes contact time with tutors, directed study time and personal study time.

There will be an opportunity to spend time in a primary school and some trainees may also visit other institutions, such as special schools or colleges of further education.

Study facilities

There will be space for trainees to study within a school setting but all trainees will also have access to the library at the university which is close at hand. Much of the training time will be spent in the specialist Science areas in the schools.

Careers/Further Study

The Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) programmes now include 40 credits of assessment at Master's Level (Level M). If you opt not to attempt the requisite credit at Level M, a Professional Graduate Certificate in Education will be available as an alternative award.

For further information on your career in teaching, including salary scales and case studies of current trainee teachers, visit www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching.

Fees

The PGCE is financed as an undergraduate course with annual fees of £9,000

For funding options, please see [funding for PGCE students](#).