

Teacher training

IAPS is proud to work with the University of Buckingham to offer two substantially discounted options for the training of teachers new to the profession or those seeking Qualified Teacher Status.

The University of Buckingham is the only teacher training university which offers government-approved teacher training courses specifically for independent schools and is the largest provider of teacher training to IAPS members' schools.

Trainees need to be employed by a school in order to take these courses but they can be employed as teaching assistants or games assistants on relatively low salaries prior to qualification.

There are two teacher training courses available. For both, the Postgraduate Certificate in Education is a 37-week school-based course during which time trainees work under the guidance of a mentor and receive weekly tutorials to review progress and to set targets.

There are three sets of training days to attend and these are supplemented by a weekly programme on the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Trainees will be assigned a university tutor who will visit once per term to assess progress and guide development.

Trainees will be assessed against the Teachers' Standards by both the mentor and tutor and there are three assignments to complete.

Trainees will be expected to have the following qualifications:

- A degree from a UK university or equivalent.
- GCSE in English Language, Maths and Science at grade C/4 or above or equivalent

For the September 2023 intake, the University is offering the following courses in addition to Masters courses, which can be *viewed here*.

COURSE 1

The Prep Postgraduate Certificate in Education with Qualified Teacher Status

Prep school trainees will work alongside trainees from secondary settings from the start of the course, whilst receiving some talks specifically about teaching in prep schools.

This supports the many prep school teachers who specialise in teaching one or two subjects and helps focus more on Key Stage 3 teaching. Trainees will visit Buckingham during half terms for six days of face-to-face talks during the year.

The advantages of this course are:

1. Trainees acquire qualified teacher status, which some staff want.
2. Trainees gain a PGCE, which means they have had to read research reports and write academic essays to a good level, whilst acquiring credits that can be set against an MA course should they choose to do one.
3. Trainees will be able to focus on the subjects they teach in their own school.
4. Trainees can continue as full-time teachers in their school with only the minimal disruption of the three-week second school placement.
5. Trainees will be guided by a mentor in their own school, so they will be implementing appropriate school policies and working in the same way as other staff.

Cost: normally £7,250 including registration fee, but specially reduced to £6,800 for IAPS member schools.

COURSE 2

Independent school PGCE

The Independent school PGCE without QTS is the same as course 1 with a few key differences. Advantages of this course over the government-sponsored QTS course:

1. Trainees do not have to be away from school for three weeks doing a second school placement.
2. The trainee does not have to attend the 20 compulsory training days required by the government after September 2024.
3. The seven days your trainee does need to attend in Buckingham will be in half-term breaks.
4. The trainee does not have to do the maths and English skills tests required by the government's course.
5. Timetable compliance rules are less strict with this course than the government's course.
6. Buckingham offers individual coaching to trainees on this course about their future career plans.

If trainees wish to, it is easy to get QTS after they have completed this course by taking the 12-week assessment-only route.

Cost: normally £6,300 including registration fee, but specially reduced to £5,800 for IAPS member schools.

The University of Buckingham also offers PGCE and QTS as an apprenticeship. This can be accessed by any school and costs £500. Details can be ***viewed here***.