

Programme Specification

PGCE Secondary

GFSXXPGCE

For students entering in 2027/28

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	PGCE Secondary -
Accreditation	Department for Education
Programme Start Dates	September
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Level 7 Master's Degree Higher Education Qualification (4.17)

Programme information and content

The Postgraduate Secondary ITE programme is designed to equip well-qualified graduates with the professional skills necessary to become committed, effective, reflective, early career teachers, who can respond flexibly to changing circumstances, maintain and enhance educational standards in secondary schools and continue to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding throughout their professional lives.

The programme will furnish candidates with the knowledge, skills and understanding to plan, deliver and evaluate lessons that meet the National Curriculum and assessment requirements, monitor students' achievements and understand how to help each individual student reach their potential.

The programme is a one-year, postgraduate course qualifying students to teach the 11-18 age range. It awards graduates with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) at the end of the programme. This programme leads to the:

Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE): Students will complete 120 level 6 credits (placements) and 60 Level 7 credits, and achieve QTS.

Each specialism gives the same exit award and students develop the same skills and attributes from the Foundational Curriculum. These sessions will include Climate Change and Sustainability education. However, the school placements that the students complete along with **subject-specific** taught sessions, will give students the subject knowledge and additional skills to become subject specialists in a secondary school.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-PGCE Secondary

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

Learning outcomes	
1	Evidence informed teachers, with the knowledge and understanding of teaching as a professional and research-based activity, showing awareness of key issues in education and how they impact school settings
2	Compassionate professionals, who are able to be empathetic and inclusive, showing pastoral understanding of children's needs
3	Responsive and reflective practitioners who are pedagogically skilled in order to meet the diverse needs of all learners
4	Creative critical curriculum thinkers, who develop rich subject knowledge and informed teacher autonomy in order to manage the challenges of the 21st century curriculum
5	Ethical community participants who understand social justice and how this intersects with being a responsible local and global citizen
6	Knowledgeable about all aspects of the ITT Core Content Framework and able to demonstrate that they meet the Teachers' Standards at the end of the programme
7	Able to engage systematically with literature to develop conceptual understanding of research and enquiry in the field and inform decision-making in practice

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information			
The programme comprises 120 level 6 credits and 60 level 7 credits as shown below.			
Compulsory modules			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
ED3ISS	Independent Implementation (Secondary)	60	6
ED3SSI	Scaffolded Implementation (Secondary)	60	6
EDMPIP	Investigating Practice	40	M
EDMPRT	The Reflective Teacher	20	M
Part-time or flexible modular arrangements			
The 180-credit PGCE is not available as a part-time option.			

Placement opportunities
The two level 6 modules include placements. This programme offers substantial experience in at least two schools, including post-16 experiences in at least one of the placements.

Study abroad opportunities
N/A

Optional modules

There are no optional modules.

Teaching and learning delivery

University-based teaching includes lectures, tutor and student led seminars and workshops and feedback on individual and group research and presentation. Teaching in Partnership schools includes observations and feedback, in-service sessions and working collaboratively. The majority of a programme scheduled activities are face-to-face but elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology. Digital enhanced teaching and learning will offer opportunities to reflect and critique the role of such technologies in school teaching and learning.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

The Department for Education awards the QTS part of the qualification following recommendation from the university. The PGCE(with QTS/non-QTS) is awarded by the University of Reading.

Assessment

Assessment of University based assessment tasks will involve meeting the stated criteria for each task. Assessment of school-based work will include observation and feedback on practical teaching and assessment against the curriculum expectations and the Teachers' Standards. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions. Assessment of the Masters-level elements will be through written assessments as set out in the EDMPRT and EDMPIP module descriptors.

Progression

Students are required to pass both placement modules to achieve their QTS.

- Students failing the Placement A module (ED3SSI) will normally be required to suspend the programme until the following Autumn
- Students failing the Placement B module (ED3ISS) will be offered a resit during the next placement opportunity, normally during the Autumn term in the next academic year.

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

Level 6 modules

To pass each of the level 6 placement modules, students must meet the curriculum check-point requirements as stipulated per module. These check-point criteria meet DfE requirements and cumulatively lead to recommendation of Qualified Teacher Status.

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

(ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

and to be recommended for QTS students must:

(iii) pass all level 6 modules

To qualify for the lesser exit award of, **Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (withwith QTS)**, students must pass all level 6 modules only.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

Travel, accommodation and subsistence: students cover the cost of transport to and from the placement school for each placement.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

PGCE Secondary for students entering in session 2027/28

4 August 2026

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