

# School Direct - Initial Teacher Training for Primary and Secondary

at Ashton Sixth Form College  
Guidance and Information





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## **Introduction to Ashton Sixth Form College and The A+ Trust**

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Ashton Sixth Form has run degrees and teacher training in partnership with Staffordshire University for several years and has achieved excellent outcomes for trainee teachers and degree students. The college is approved by the Quality Assurance Agency who assess standards in higher education delivery. We are committed to ensuring that you receive the very best teaching and support with your studies, in a vibrant learning environment.

Ashton Sixth Form College deliver teacher training in partnership with the A+ Trust of secondary schools, local primary schools and Staffordshire University. The A+ Trust is an educational trust between Ashton Sixth Form College and six schools in the Tameside area. The Trust is working together to raise attainment, aspiration and achievement in the borough.



## **Introduction to School Direct and the Award**

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School Direct is a school-led training programme that gives you the chance to learn 'on the job' in a school. You will work as part of the teaching team from day one, learning from experienced, practising colleagues and immediately putting your new skills into practice.

This award is designed to allow graduates with an appropriate honours degree to train at postgraduate level to become a primary or secondary school teacher. You will leave this Teacher Training course with a PGCE qualification. This can be awarded at 3 levels dependent upon performance during the training year, either 30 (Professional) or 60 or 90 (Postgraduate) M level credits, in addition to recommendation for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), the required qualification to teach in England.

The course aims to develop your professional competencies in the creation and delivery of programmes in primary and secondary education, and to develop the wider professional knowledge and skills expected of a qualified teacher.

You will complete teaching practice in 2 schools or colleges during the course. The programme will also include a small number of observational days in settings with older and younger children. The course requires considerable time commitment, this includes all class contact, as well as independent study and preparation. The balance of time between the various components of university and school-based work varies over the year.



## What pathways are available?

The majority of your time is spent within the school, 2 major placements make up the year to achieve at least 120 days teaching. This will be 4 days a week most weeks but 3 days in some weeks.

1. Primary pathway – all placements in primary x 2.
2. Secondary pathway, 11-18 - all placements in secondary x 2 in your subject.

In addition, you will spend up to 10 days in settings with children in different age groups.



## What will the course cover?

The course is made up of the following four modules:

- **Learning and Teaching of Subject** - This module will encourage trainees to explore the pedagogy or how to teach (rather than what to teach) and you will learn about the theory of teaching and the effectiveness of using different teaching methods.
- **Subject Knowledge for Learning and Teaching** - This module is designed to develop trainee subject knowledge and understanding and their ability to make use of this knowledge in the development of high quality lessons, learning materials and assessment strategies.
- **Education and Professional Issues** - This module will encourage trainees to explore a wide range of current educational issues that are relevant to all aspects of teaching regardless of subject. This will include a consideration of such issues as the nature of the curriculum, the role of education in society and the process skills required in order to be an effective teacher.
- **Teaching Practice** - This module is the school based aspect of your training that will provide the government required experience of teaching in schools.

You will be supported in the development of subject knowledge by a Subject Lead/Mentor within your placement.

The **university study days** will be delivered 1 to 2 days a week at Ashton Sixth Form College with the teacher training team.



## What are the entry requirements?

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### Primary Pathways:

- You will need to demonstrate a good understanding of the education system gained from work or placement in schools or experience of working with primary school aged pupils.
- You must already possess, or expect to be awarded, the equivalent of a UK Honours Degree. Ideally this should be at 2:1 or above, although a 2:2 may be acceptable in some circumstances.
- A GCSE grade A\*- C in Maths, English and Science.
- Be able to demonstrate your ability and capacity to write at an appropriate level for your programme (identified ALS needs that may impact on written English skills will be taken into account).
- Be able to demonstrate your capacity to study at the appropriate level (assessed by application, interview and performance in previous study).
- You will be required to successfully complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) application and be certified fit to teach. The fee for this is to be paid by the student once a place on the course has been offered and accepted.
- You will be required to complete a health check to confirm that you are fit to teach. The fee for this this is to be paid by the student once a place on the course has been offered and accepted.
- You will be required to complete and pass a Professional Skills Test which includes assessment of your English and maths skills, more information can be found at [sta.education.gov.uk](http://sta.education.gov.uk).
- You must be ICT literate.

### Secondary Pathways:

- You will need to demonstrate a good understanding of the education system gained from work or placement in schools or experience of working with secondary school aged pupils.
- You must already possess, or expect to be awarded, the equivalent of a UK Honours Degree in a national curriculum subject that you wish to teach (please check with us about your degree suitability if you are unsure). Ideally this should be at 2:1 or above, although a 2:2 may be acceptable in some circumstances.
- A GCSE grade A\*- C in Maths and English.
- Be able to demonstrate your ability and capacity to write at an appropriate level for your programme (identified ALS needs that may impact on written English skills will be taken into account).
- Be able to demonstrate your capacity to study at the appropriate level (assessed by application, interview and performance in previous study).
- You will be required to successfully complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) application and be certified fit to teach. The fee for this is to be paid by the student once a place on the course has been offered and accepted.
- You will be required to complete a health check to confirm that you are fit to teach. The fee for this this is to be paid by the student once a place on the course has been offered and accepted.

- You will be required to complete and pass a Professional Skills Test which includes assessment of your English and maths skills, more information can be found at [sta.education.gov.uk](http://sta.education.gov.uk).
- You must be ICT literate.

*Secondary subjects which are available are listed on page 6 with the UCAS codes.*



## **How long does the course take?**

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This course will run September to June. 120 days is spent in 2 carefully selected placement schools over the year with 1 to 2 days at college per week.



## **How much does the course cost?**

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**The course fee is set by Staffordshire University and will be no higher than £9250.**

Students accepted onto this programme are generally entitled to a tuition fee loan from Student Finance England. Further information on student finance can be found in the accompanying Student Finance Information booklet or at: [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance). Please note that it is your responsibility to apply for the loan.

Bursaries may be available depending on your degree classification and if you are applying for the secondary pathway, your subject.



## **Where can you progress to?**

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Successful trainees will receive their PGCE with Masters credits and recommendation for QTS from Staffordshire University. Once you have completed your PGCE, you will then be able to start applying for teaching jobs.



## **When can you apply?**

Application for 2017 is now open via UCAS Teacher Training - [www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training). Each course has a UCAS code which you will need when applying online.

| Course              | UCAS code |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Art and Design      | 2S4T      |
| Biology             | 2S4S      |
| Chemistry           | 2S4Q      |
| Drama               | 2S4M      |
| English             | 2S4K      |
| Geography           | 2S4J      |
| History             | 2S4C      |
| Mathematics         | 2S4L      |
| Physics             | 2SCD      |
| Primary             | 2S3L      |
| Religious Education | 2S3R      |



## **What is the Admissions process?**

Following a successful application through UCAS Teacher Training, you will be invited to phase 1 of the interview process which is a formal college based interview which will include:

- Panel interview with representatives from a partner school and the Teacher Training Team
- 10 minute presentation related to the course you have applied for
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar test
- Written task related to the course you have applied for

If you are successful at phase 1 of the interview process, you will be invited to a phase 2 interview at a school within our partnership where you will be observed by a member of the teaching staff interacting with children and staff. You must be successful with both parts to be offered a place on this course.

You **must** bring along the following information/documents to your interview:

- Copies of all your qualifications
- A copy of your birth certificate, passport/EU identity card and National Insurance Number
- The results of your Professional Skills Test
- A copy of the 'Suitability to Teach Declaration form', this will be sent to you in the post prior to your interview

Please note – we will not continue with your interview if the above documents are not provided.



## Notes

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A large area of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.





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