

Work Experience Guidance for Teaching courses



UNIVERSITY OF
WINCHESTER



For qualifying teaching courses you do not need to have prior work experience in a school setting to apply (see [Get into Teaching](#)). Whilst prior experience in a school is not required, you may find experience useful for obtaining insights into the classroom. Experience in a school or similar setting may also provide reassurance to you that teaching is the right choice for your career. If this is not possible, we recommend wider reading into the profession and engagement in alternative remote experiences.

For teaching courses, those that are Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses, you will be interviewed and universities are looking for the following:

- evidence of a commitment to the teaching profession,
- an understanding of professional requirements,
- an awareness of current educational issues

If you have submitted your UCAS application but gathered additional experience since submission, you are welcome to send supplementary information to add to your record. Please email this to admissions@winchester.ac.uk. Subject to interview availability, we will re-review an application. Please note, this only applies to students that have not yet been interviewed and received a tutor decision, and we are unable to guarantee that supplementary information will result in an interview.

Please be aware that the teaching courses do have maximum numbers they can take each year. You must meet the academic entry requirements prior to enrolment. We advise applicants to apply by the UCAS on-time deadline of 15th January 2021 (ideally before). Due to limited numbers, we can only shortlist a portion of applicants for an interview. If we are unable to shortlist for an interview, we will provide feedback for future applications or offer you alternative courses at the University.

Have a question or want some more info?

- [Ask our students](#) what they think of studying with us
- Talk to us - head to winchester.ac.uk where we'd love to chat to you
- Book to attend our next [virtual open day](#)

Preparation for Application

There are lots of different ways you can prepare your application ready to secure an interview and hopefully gain a place. Below are some of the ways we think you can prepare to show off why you are right for the course.

What does the career involve?

Teachers are working in the classroom teaching, but do much more. Think about the wider implications of the job, dealing with parents, supporting students with additional needs, and mental health concerns.

Teachers work together to highlight issues through their professional bodies, take a look at [NASUWT](#) or [National Education Union](#).

When watching or listening to resources, it is useful to consider and reflect upon the following:

- When listening to professional talk about their role, what is inspiring and motivating to you? Why do you want to engage in similar work?
- How have the professionals dealt with difficult situations? When have you dealt with similar situations or developed similar skills?
- What skills are the professional showing (e.g. communication and teamwork) and how will you apply these to your studies/ career?

Know what is going on

Teachers work in a variety of settings, no two schools are quite the same. They are also impacted by what is going on in society and political decisions. Which means things are changing and adapting all the time. Keep up to date by taking a look at the [BBC Education News](#).

The Department for Education will showcase what is going on and announce changes - this is devolved so take a look for [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [NI](#).

Schools are inspected - we don't expect you to know everything but find a few school reports (in [England](#), [NI](#), [Wales](#) and [Scotland](#)) to read through their findings, and reflect on:

- What does it tell you?
- What are the measures of a successful school?
- What can have an impact on the success of a school?

Understanding the classroom

Find out what schools should be teaching, it's great if you can show an understanding of the national curriculum ([England](#), [Wales](#), [Scotland](#) and [NI](#)).

If possible, REFLECT on any classroom experience you have (this might be as a pupil or volunteering), or general experience with children such as babysitting, working with youth group, dance/sport coaching.

Think about the phase (or age range) that interests you. What is so appealing about teaching at this level? What challenges might there be in the classroom, such as behaviour management? How would you deal with a difficult pupil, how would you encourage them to learn?

Building up new skills

Volunteering opportunities are great for learning compassion and empathy as well as other skills. Charities are often looking for volunteers to support their work - take a look at [Do-it](#) for opportunities, in person and online.

You could also look at gaining new skills, such as taking up British Sign Language, learning first aid or completing an [online course](#).

Further reading, books or articles that you've read that you can reflect on are a good way to show your skills. What aspects of Education interest you, eg, history, philosophy, psychology, educational theory, etc? Why are you interested in these areas?