



**WEST LONDON TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE**  
SCHOOL DIRECT TEACHER TRAINING 2020-21

*in partnership with*



St Mary's  
University  
Twickenham  
London

UCAS  
COURSE  
CODE  
**37F9**

# UNSALARIED PRIMARY PGCE(M)+QTS

**WITH ADDITIONAL SCHOOL BURSARY**

**UCAS Provider 2H3**

West London Teaching School Alliance (Primary, St Mary's)

*This programme is available at*

- ◆ St Charles Catholic Primary School, W10
- ◆ St James' Catholic Primary School, TW2
- ◆ St John XXIII Catholic Primary School, W12
- ◆ St Mary of the Angels RC Primary School, W2
- ◆ St Mary's Catholic Primary School, W4

**Get Started  
Today!**

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# 1 About this Course

## 1.1 Qualification Outcome

This course **37F9** leads to PGCE (M) QTS. Further explanation of different teacher training qualifications can be found [here](#).

## 1.2 Special Features

This course is run by the West London Teaching School Alliance (WLTSA) as Provider (in partnership with (and accredited by), St Mary's University, Twickenham, with extra funding for trainees, above DfE provision, see financial support below.

WLTSA enables you to choose your host school at application. If during the training year there is a teaching vacancy in your school and they are keen to retain you, you can be employed for the following year **without the post being advertised**. By becoming a WLTSA trainee, all our 43 primary schools could employ you this way; we operate a pool.

Our aim is to produce exceptional teachers who can then remain in alliance schools, continuing to further their career with the benefit of our Continuing Professional Development.

## 1.3 The Training

You would attend all the same university sessions with those who had applied through the university; have full access to university facilities and mentors. The university still awards your PGCE.



*St Mary's University Twickenham*

As a rough guide, see [example timetable](#) from another year. WLTSA selects a second contrasting school for your 'away' placement which occurs before your (longer) time at the main host school.

The university programme covers teaching; assessing; classroom management; child protection; maths, English, science, music, history, drama, geography, art, design and technology, PE, MFL and Masters.

Through an initial programme of observations, you will become familiar with the organisation and working of the school (pupil groups and pastoral systems, staffing, curriculum, resources, facilities, approaches to learning and teaching, lesson planning and assessment).

You will be treated like a member of staff. With your school mentors, you will feel supported as you progress and become ready to teach. Our mentors are excellent teachers and undertake rigorous training to develop their mentoring skills. Your time in school provides you with the opportunity to develop your teaching expertise and relationships with children in a familiar environment.

You will have the opportunity to teach a range of year groups (aged 5-11) covering Maths, English, Science as well as other subjects and themed projects. You will have experience of the National Curriculum and teacher assessment.

Your university tutor will visit you at both schools to discuss your development with you and your mentors. You will maintain close links with your host school throughout the programme.

## 2 Interviews

### 2.1 Two-Stage Interview

If shortlisted for interview, you would attend a two-stage interview process.

First, a full day university interview including some time for the university registry team to verify various identification documents and qualification certificates. In addition to their panel interview, you may be required to undertake group tasks with other candidates.

Secondly, assuming you pass at the university (which is common), the school interview will take place at your chosen host school usually in the morning, approx. 3-4 days later.

### 2.2 Interview Dates

We try to ensure that you have at least a week's notice of interviews. Dates already set for the first stage university interviews can be found [here](#).

## 3 How School Placements Work

With WLTA you select **the main host school** at application. We then later arrange your second placement at another contrasting WLTA school to provide greater depth to your training experience.

### 3.1 Choosing your School

The characters and location of our schools are varied. When deciding on your preferred host school, we need you to consider where you might eventually like to work and how accessible it is to where you live.

The schools seeking trainees on this particular programme are listed below.

- St Charles Catholic Primary School, W10
- St James' Catholic Primary School, TW2
- St John XXIII Catholic Primary School, W12
- St Mary of the Angels RC Primary School, W2
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, W4

You can read descriptions of each of these schools in our overall [WLTA Primary School Summary Descriptions](#). Our [Map of WLTA Schools](#) may also be helpful.

Please be aware that we have many other unsalaried and salaried [primary teacher training courses](#) at other schools. You can make three choices overall when you apply.

### 3.2 The technical bit!

You don't have to restrict yourself to one school within a course, but each school would count as one application and you get three choices overall in Round 1. Please also be aware that we have so many partner schools that we have been forced to split artificially on UCAS into three provider names. See [How to apply & how to choose more than one school on a course](#).

### 3.3 Be strategic when you apply

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You can always ring us up to ask how many applications (if any) are being considered by different schools at the point that you are about to apply. We also keep our website up to date so that you can see which schools have already shortlisted and are interviewing.

We commonly interview individually whenever a good application is received.

## 4 Fees

The tuition fee for this course is £9,250 payable to St Mary's University, Twickenham.

## 5 Financial Support

### 5.1 School Bursaries

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The DfE does not offer bursaries for general Primary courses. Schools on this programme however, are offering bursaries of £2,000 to £3,000 to help cover some of your costs.

See link for full details of all [WLTSA Primary School Bursaries](#).

### 5.2 Student Loans

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You can also take out a student loan if eligible, even if you already have an undergraduate loan. Loans for tuition fees are not means tested (whereas loans for maintenance are means tested) but you should confirm this using the link below.

[Funding My Training - A page on the DfE's 'Get into Teaching' website](#)

### 5.3 Other

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As a full time student you will be eligible for cheaper travel in London using a student oyster card and in many boroughs you can get a reduction on your council tax payments.

## 6 Course Requirements

### 6.1 Qualifications Needed

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- A UK undergraduate honours degree or an equivalent qualification at 2:2 or above.
- Five GCSEs at least at Grade C (or grade 4 for GCSEs sat in 2017 onwards) or approved equivalent) including English Language, Mathematics and Science.

Where appropriate, please read our important guidance [Overseas Qualifications & GCSE Equivalency Tests](#).

Offers will be conditional on satisfactory outcome of a Disclosure & Barring Service check (£52) and an occupational health check (£20), both administered through the university after an offer is accepted.

By the end of the course you will need to be able to demonstrate proficiency in functional (everyday) English and numeracy. In some interviews you may therefore be tested to assess your current level.

### 6.2 Personal Qualities

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We want you to have passion and enthusiasm. We need trainees who can engage and inspire students to a love of learning, who are:

- committed to championing their students;
- open to learn about children's physical/social/emotional/cognitive needs and how these can affect behaviour;

- in good health with the ability to cope with stress. Teaching is incredibly rewarding, but it also requires an element of resilience!
- professional and committed to equal opportunities;
- able to communicate well in written/spoken English, with at least basic computer skills and commitment to developing these.
- have a sense of humour and an ability to laugh at yourself.

### 6.3 Other requirements

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A realistic understanding of both the role of a teacher and some current issues facing the profession is important. It can really help to spend a couple of days observing relevant lessons in a state primary to strengthen your application but this is not a strict requirement in itself. [Top tips for getting some observational experience \(primary\)](#).

As the schools on this programme are all Catholic schools, they will also be looking for someone sympathetic to the values of the Catholic faith.

## 7 About the West London Teaching School Alliance

### 7.1 Who are we?

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We are a large alliance of 60 schools: nurseries, primaries, special needs, secondaries, sixth forms; faith and non-faith, maintained schools, independent schools and free schools. We have formal partnership arrangements with three universities.

Most of our schools are in Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea, but we also have schools in Westminster; Richmond; Twickenham, Ealing, Isleworth, Hounslow, Hillingdon and Southwark.

The central Teaching School Office for WLTA is based at Sacred Heart High School, in Hammersmith.

### 7.2 Our approach to trainee recruitment

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We pride ourselves in the support that we provide potential applicants and in the speed of our shortlisting. We have a detailed website which is a good place to start. We also hold fortnightly [information sessions](#) to explain the qualifications; routes into teaching; finance; and how to secure a place!

*'That's the first time that I have ever properly understood it all. Brilliant!'* Applicant 2018.

The Teaching School Office is staffed full time with experts to talk to on the phone.

You choose the schools when you apply. If you perform well but fail to get a place at your preferred school, we continue to work with you, recommending you to other WLTA schools of your choice rather than rejecting you.

We place significant emphasis on getting a good fit between trainee and school because we are all keenly focussed on recruitment for qualified teachers in our alliance schools the following year.

[Further opportunities to develop your career with WLTA](#)

### 7.3 The Accrediting Body

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This WLTA course is accredited by St Mary's University, Twickenham. In 2000, St Mary's celebrated 150 years in Education.

With just under 4,000 students training to teach on primary and secondary, they are now London's second largest teacher training course provider and in 2019 the St Mary's Institute of Education was once again rated 'Outstanding'.

Course tutors at St Mary's are all skilful teachers themselves, with many years of experience in schools and higher education. Schools in the Alliance have excellent relationships with the university.

#### **7.4 Training with a disability**

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WLTSa and all our partner universities are committed to supporting students with disabilities. Please contact us as early as possible in your application process so that your needs are met and support can be arranged.

You can also find support and information from the university accrediting the programme that you hope to apply for:

**St Mary's University:** St Mary's offer advice and support to their students who have requirements as a result of a disability, specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia), medical condition or temporary disability, such as injury. St Mary's Dyslexia and Disability Co-ordinator (DDC) works closely with the other members of the Student Services team, supporting students in their time at university assisting them to be proactive in their studies as an independent learner. <http://www.smuc.ac.uk/student-support/dyslexia-and-disability/>

## **8 Contact Details**

### **8.1 Website**

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[www.wltsa.org.uk](http://www.wltsa.org.uk)

### **8.2 Teaching School Office**

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The Teaching School Office team administers all WLTSa teacher training recruitment.

Please email us with queries and when you do, please include your phone number.

[pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk](mailto:pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk)

You can also call us on **0208 748 7600** (Pippa Currey x466 or Alex Dijkhuis x290)