



WEST LONDON TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE
SCHOOL DIRECT TEACHER TRAINING 2021-22

in partnership with



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

UCAS
COURSE
CODE
37FB

UNSALARIED PRIMARY PGCE(M)+QTS

UCAS Provider 2H3

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

This programme is available at

- ◆ Larmenier & Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, W6
- ◆ Little Ealing Primary School, W5
- ◆ Park Walk Primary School, SW10
- ◆ Queens Manor Primary School, SW6
- ◆ Ravenor Primary School, UB6
- ◆ St John XXIII Catholic Primary School, W12
- ◆ St Mary's Catholic Primary School, W14
- ◆ St Vincent's Primary Catholic School, W3

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1 About this Course

1.1 Qualification Outcome

This course **37FB** leads to PGCE(M)QTS. Further clarity on the significance 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) in partnership with (and accredited by) St Mary's University, Twickenham.

WLTSA enables you to choose your host school at application. If during the training year there is a teaching vacancy in your host school and they want to retain you, you can be employed fairly seamlessly the following year **without the post being advertised**. By becoming a WLTSA trainee, all our other primary schools could also employ you this way and 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 on-going continuing professional development.

1.3 The Training

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

As a rough guide, see an [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 and assessing; classroom management; child protection; maths, English, science, music, history, drama, geography, art, design and technology, PE, MFL and Masters.

At school, 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 and young people in a familiar environment.

You will have the opportunity to teach a range of year groups (children aged 5-11) covering Maths, English and 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 to monitor your progress at both schools and discuss your development with you and your mentors. You will maintain close links with your host school throughout the course.

2 Interviews

2.1 Covid Changes

The interview process for this course may change as the year progresses depending on the Covid situation.

Prior to Covid, we had a two-stage process with one initial interview at the university, and then an interview at your chosen host school a couple of days later. The school interview included an opportunity for you to join a class to either assist or to teach something for a short time.

We have now moved to a new system where both interviews are online. We anticipate that this new system will persist certainly throughout the autumn term, and possibly for the remainder of the year.

2.2 Online Interviews

Those shortlisted by WLTA will be emailed by the university to ask you to upload scans of various documents to their portal. This will include identification documents and relevant qualification certificates if you already have them (see course requirements later below). On the day, you will need to show photo ID at the start of the online interview.

If you don't have access to original certificates of exams **already taken** for your degree and maths, English and science GCSEs, this is something that you should start to resolve now. If you don't have them in time for the university interview, please be assured that we can still make an offer to you but it would be subject to later verification of your qualification certificates and sometimes certified copies can take a couple of months to arrive.

The school interview normally takes place a few days later.

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.:

- Larmenier & Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, W6
- Little Ealing Primary School, W5
- Park Walk Primary School, SW10
- Queens Manor Primary School, SW6
- Ravenor Primary School, UB6
- St John XXIII Catholic Primary School, W12
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, W14
- St Vincent's Primary Catholic School, W3

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

You can always contact us 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

The DfE does not offer bursaries for general Primary courses. You can however 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](#)

While not provided directly by WLTA, please be aware that as a full time student you would 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

- A UK undergraduate honours degree or an equivalent qualification at 2:2 or above.
- GCSE Grade C (or 4 for GCSEs sat in 2017 onwards) or the equivalent in English Language, Mathematics and a science. Whilst equivalency tests are available, it is a requirement that those applying for this course hold GCSEs in *at least two of the three subjects (or equivalent qualifications) at the time of application*.

Where appropriate, please read our important guidance on [Overseas Qualifications](#) and if necessary also about [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.

6.2 Personal Qualities

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.
- you must have a sense of humour and an ability to laugh at yourself.

6.3 Other requirements

A realistic understanding of the role of a teacher and of issues facing the profession, is important. Tutoring experience could be helpful. We recognise that it may not be possible to spend a couple of days observing relevant lessons while schools are maintaining discrete separation of their pupils in relation to Covid. [Top tips for getting some observational experience \(primary\)](#).

If you wish to train at one of our faith schools, they will also be looking for someone sympathetic to the values of their faith.

7 About the West London Teaching School Alliance

7.1 Who are we?

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 Brent.

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

The designation of 'Teaching School' is being withdrawn by DfE in Sept 2021 for all Teaching Schools across the country. For teacher training this is simply an issue of branding and our operational delivery will continue as before, simply with a new name: the **West London Teacher Training Partnership**.

7.2 Our approach to trainee recruitment

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 but we also run fortnightly information plus Q&A sessions. These explain the different qualifications; different routes into teaching; finance; and how it all works!

At the moment these sessions are online due to Covid restrictions but this may change over the course of the academic year. [WLTA Information sessions plus Q&A](#)

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

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.

7.3 The Accrediting Body

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



St Mary's University Twickenham

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' by Ofsted.

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

WLTA 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

www.wltsa.org.uk

8.2 Teaching School Office

The Teaching School Office team administers all WLTA teacher training recruitment. Please email us with queries and when you do, please include your phone number.

pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk

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