



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

in partnership with



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

UCAS
COURSE
CODE
VM7T

UNSALARIED BIOLOGY PGCE(M)+QTS

AT SPECIAL NEEDS HOST SCHOOL

UCAS Provider 2BV

West London Teaching School Alliance (Secondary)

This programme is available at

- ◆ The Rise School TW13, (Ambitious about Autism)



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1 About this Course

1.1 Qualification Outcome

This course **VM7T** 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) as Provider (in partnership with (and accredited by) St Mary's University, Twickenham.

WLTSA enables you to choose your host school at application. Later, if there is a teaching vacancy in your host school and they want to retain you, you can be employed fairly seamlessly for the following year **without the post being advertised**. By becoming a WLTSA trainee, all our other secondary 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 CPD.

1.3 The Training

Most schools need you to be able to teach at least one of the three sciences to A-Level, and to be willing and able to teach all three Sciences at Key Stage 3 and ideally to GCSE. We can help you learn to do so.

You would attend all the same university sessions with those who had applied through the university; have full access to university facilities and mentors; and the university still awards your PGCE. WLTSA selects a second contrasting school for your 'away' placement.



St Mary's University Twickenham

As a guide: [2018-19 block timetable](#).

Lectures would include teaching, assessing, classroom management and child protection. Subject seminars are led by your university tutor.

At school, through an initial programme of observations, you will become familiar with the workings of the school and department (pupil groups, pastoral systems, staffing, curriculum, resources, facilities, methods of teaching, lesson planning, and assessment).

You will be treated like a member of teaching staff and with your school mentors, you will feel supported as you become ready to teach. Our mentors are excellent experienced teachers who undertake rigorous training to develop their mentoring skills.

Throughout your time in both schools, your university tutor visits you to monitor your progress and discuss your development with you and your school mentors.

As a trainee Biology teacher, you will have the opportunity to teach across KS3/4 covering key areas of Biology/Chemistry/Physics. You will also have the opportunity to support KS5. Year 7 -10 teaching will include aspects of nutrition and digestion, atoms, elements and chemical reactions, energy and forces.

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 and some subject knowledge testing.

The school interview will take place at your chosen host school usually in the morning, approx. 4 days later.

You will be asked to bring to both interviews, originals of your relevant qualification certificates (most importantly the degree and maths and English GCSE's or equivalent).

If you are still taking your degree or equivalency tests, that's fine but if you don't have access to original certificates of exams already taken (for your degree and maths and English GCSEs in particular) this is something that you should start to resolve now. If you don't have them in time for the interview, please be assured that we could still make an offer to you but it would be subject to later verification of original certificates and sometimes certified copies can take a couple of months to arrive.

See also the link in the 'Course Requirements' section below, regarding overseas qualifications.

2.1 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

3.1 Selecting a School

With WLTSA you select **the main host school** at application and normally there are several to choose from but we are only running this particular course (which specifies a SEN host school) from The Rise School, TW13.

We then later arrange your second placement at a contrasting (mainstream) WLTSA school to provide greater depth to your training experience.

You can read a description of The Rise and our other secondary schools in our overall [WLTSA Secondary School Summary Descriptions](#). Our [Map of WLTSA Schools](#) may also be helpful.

Please be aware that we have other [WLTSA secondary courses](#) at other schools including a separate Biology unsalaried course being run at many mainstream schools (Course 2XVC) and a Biology salaried option (Course 36B5). 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 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

Subject to eligibility, DfE tax free bursary of £26,000 & student loan. See full details using the link below:

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

You can take out a student loan (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 above.

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 scientific honours degree (2.2 or above).
- We normally also expect two Sciences at A-Level standard.
- Five GCSEs at least at Grade C (or grade 4 for GCSEs sat in 2017 onwards) or the equivalent) including English Language and Mathematics.

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

Some previous experience with SEN children would be a distinct advantage.

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

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

We require energetic and committed applicants with excellent subject knowledge in Science.

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

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

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 Southwark.

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

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. 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

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 Ofsted '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

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 offers 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.

adijkhuis@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk / pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk

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