



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

in partnership with



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

UCAS
COURSE
CODE
2XVY

SALARIED GEOGRAPHY

QTS

UCAS Provider 2BV

West London Teaching School Alliance (Secondary)

This programme is available at

- ◆ **West London Free School**



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1 About this Course

1.1 Qualification Outcome

This course **2XVY** leads to 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

Your training will be predominantly based in your host (employing) school other than

- approx. 10 days at the university across the year; and
- your second placement for approx. 6 weeks at another WLTSA school.

You will register with the university and meet with your University Tutor who will begin to work with you on a needs analysis for a Training Plan (TP) in term one. This will be reworked in term two and three between you, your school mentor and university tutor.



St Mary's University, Twickenham

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 the 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. You will maintain close links with your host school throughout the programme.

You will have the opportunity to teach KS3; some KS4 GCSE; and to support some A-Level lessons. At KS3 each unit builds key geographical skills whilst exploring particular named

places. These topics include ecosystems, weather, climatic hazards, urbanisation and many more. KS4 includes fieldwork, using maps and GIS, as well researching secondary evidence.

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.

2.2 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

3.1 Choosing your School

With WLTA you select **the main host school** at application and normally there are several to choose from but we are only running this particular salaried course at **West London Free School, W6**. We then later arrange your second placement at a contrasting WLTA school to provide greater depth to your training experience.

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

While there is only one salaried place, please be assured that schools are NOT inundated with applications for Geography. We commonly interview individually whenever a good application is received. You can always ring up to ask how many people (if any) are being considered by the school at the point that you are about to apply.

Please be aware that we have other [WLTA secondary courses](#) at other schools including an unsalaried Geography course 2XVS at several other schools. DfE bursaries available on the unsalaried course are extremely high making its broadly similar in terms of financial advantage, to this salaried course.

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 Salary

The successful candidate in any maintained school will be paid a salary by the employing host school in line with the 'Non-Qualified Teacher Pay Range 2020-21', normally at the Point 1 level. This government pay range is expected to be published in Sept. 2020.

As a guide, Point 1 on the Unqualified Teacher Pay Range this academic year (**2019-20**) is:

- £22,237 (for a school in Inner London)
- £21,004 (for a school in outer London)

One exception to this is Free Schools who set their own trainee salary levels, usually at a similar level.

The tuition fee for this course will be covered by WLTSa.

Trainees on salaried programmes are not eligible for bursaries or student loans.

Please note that we are unable to sponsor anyone who would otherwise not have the right to take up employment in this country.

5 Financial Support

You will earn a salary and WLTSa pays the tuition fees on this course. DfE bursaries and loans are not available to those on salaried courses.

6 Course Requirements

6.1 Qualifications Needed

- Honours degree (2.2 or above) or equivalent, ideally 'Geography' with a balance of human/physical. Subject tutors will apply their discretion in assessing subject knowledge.
- 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.](#)

We require energetic and committed applicants with excellent subject knowledge and ideally previous experience that might enable a faster progression into teaching than on an unsalaried course.

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 will look for a level of maturity (irrespective of age) to operate as a responsible salaried member of staff.

A realistic understanding of the role of a teacher and of some current issues facing the profession, is important. It can really 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 DBS & occupational health checks, both administered by the school 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 two weekly [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 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.wlta.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)