



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

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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Today!**

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1 About this Course

1.1 Qualification Outcome

This course **VM7T** leads to PGCE (M) QTS. 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. We make prompt shortlisting decisions and will liaise with you quickly if we need additional information.

WLTSA enables you to choose your host school. Later, if there is a teaching vacancy 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 enrol at the university and 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: [Typical 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 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

There will still be an initial interview with the university and then another with your chosen host school a couple of days later. 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 and transcripts if you already have them (see course requirements below).

They may also ask you to complete a brief subject audit questionnaire. This will help them to establish the range of your subject knowledge and whether or not a subject knowledge enhancement course may be needed as a condition, if an offer is made. This can all be discussed at interview.

If you don't have access to original certificates of exams **already taken** for your degree and Maths and English 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.

3 How School Placements Work

3.1 Selecting a 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 course (which specifies a SEN host school) from The Rise School, TW13.

We then later arrange your second placement at a contrasting (mainstream) WLTA 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 [WLTA Secondary School Summary Descriptions](#). Our [Map of WLTA Schools](#) may also be helpful.

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

If you apply to more than one of our schools, it's helpful if you email us confidentially to confirm which is your first choice school, so that we can try to ensure a sensible order for the interviews.

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

5.1 Bursaries

A bursary is a sum of money received by students that does not need to be paid back. It is an incentive to help recruitment.

Eligibility and DfE bursary levels (and scholarship details) for different subjects for the 2021-22 training year will be published in autumn 2020 on the government's [Get into Teaching website 'Funding my Training' tab](#) and they normally pay more for high priority subjects where they are concerned that recruitment nationally may not meet their target. For some subjects, no bursary at all is available.

For some subjects in addition to a bursary, the DfE also adds early career payments that you would receive tax free later when you are working as a qualified teacher in the state sector. All of this information will be included in the link above.

You don't need to apply for a bursary, you'll automatically start receiving it once you begin your course so long as you meet the eligibility requirements. Bursaries are not means tested. Find out [how you'll be paid](#).

5.2 Student Loans for Fees and for Maintenance

You may also be eligible for a [loan while you study](#) - note that you'll have to apply for [undergraduate student finance](#).

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.

5.3 Other financial benefits

While not provided directly by WLTSAs, 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.

5.4 Overseas Students

Find out about financial support if you're from [outside the UK](#).

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.
- GCSE Grade C (or grade 4 for GCSEs sat in 2017 onwards) or the equivalent in English Language and Mathematics.

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

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

A realistic understanding of the role of a teacher and some current issues facing the profession is also important. Under normal circumstances it would help to spend a couple of days observing relevant lessons in a state secondary school but this observation is not a 'requirement' and we recognise that it is unlikely to be possible for anyone while schools are maintaining discrete separation of their pupils in relation to Covid.

[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 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. See how you can join one of these sessions here: [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. [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 WLTSa 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)