



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

*in partnership with*



**St Mary's**  
**University**  
**Twickenham**  
**London**

**UCAS**  
**COURSE**  
**CODE**  
**36B5**

# **SALARIED BIOLOGY**

## **QTS**

**UCAS Provider 2BV**

**West London Teaching School Alliance (Secondary)**

*This programme is available at*

- ◆ West London Free School, W6



**Get Started**  
**Today!**

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# 1 About this Course

## 1.1 Qualification Outcome

This course **36B5** leads to 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 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.

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 across KS3/KS4 and to support KS5. KS3 topics include elements and chemical reactions, cell biology, nutrition and digestion, atoms, energy and forces. 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 there is one online interview with school and the outcome is then reviewed and approved by the university. We anticipate that this new system will persist certainly throughout the autumn term, and possibly for the remainder of the year.

### 2.2 Online Interview

Those shortlisted by WLTA will be emailed by the school with technical arrangements for the interview.

You will also be asked by WLTA centrally to email us with scans of your relevant qualification certificates and transcripts if you already have them (see course requirements later below).

If you are still taking your degree or GCSE 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, 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 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.

We try to ensure that you have at least a week's notice of the interview.

## 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 Fulham Cross Academy, SW6. 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.

Please be aware that we have other [WLTA secondary courses](#) at other schools including an unsalaried Biology course 2XVC and another unsalaried Biology course VM7T to be run in a

special needs school. These courses come with a modest additional DfE bursary. You can make three choices overall when you apply.

### 3.2 The technical bit!

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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 Salary

### 4.1 Two-Stage Interview

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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 2021-22', normally at the Point 1 level. This government pay range is expected to be published in Sept. 2021.

As a guide, Point 1 on the Unqualified Teacher Pay Range for **2020-21** is:

- £22,849 (for a school in Inner London)
- £21,582 (for a school in outer London)

Free Schools can set their own trainee salary levels, but usually follow the pay range.

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

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 WLTA pays the tuition fees on this course. DfE bursaries and loans are not available to those on salaried programmes.

## 6 Course Requirements

### 6.1 Qualifications Needed

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- A scientific honours degree (2.2 or above) ideally in Biology.
- 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 on [Overseas Qualifications](#) and if necessary also about [GCSE Equivalency tests](#)

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

## 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 also 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 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.](#)

Offers are conditional on satisfactory outcome of DBS and occupational health checks both administered through 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 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**.

## 7.1 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 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: [WL TSA 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 WL TSA 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.

## 7.2 The Accrediting Body

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This WL TSA 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.

## 7.3 Training with a disability

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WL TSA 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 WL TSA teacher training recruitment.

Please email us with queries and when you do, please include your phone number.  
[adijkhuis@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk](mailto:adijkhuis@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk) / [pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk](mailto:pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk)

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