Teaching in Wales

Entry requirements

Most of the entry requirements for England apply in Wales. Specific differences in initial teacher training (ITT) at university schools of education in Wales are that all applicants are required to undertake the following:

- an interview;
- a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check;
- a physical and mental ‘fitness to teach’ test.

You should then register with a General Teaching Council. In Wales this is the General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW).

If you are a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) applicant and wish to teach in the secondary sector but do not have enough subject knowledge to teach the area you are interested in, you might consider a Prepare to Teach ‘taster’ course. This offers the opportunity to sample teaching whilst identifying any gaps in your subject knowledge. Courses offered are for mathematics, science, modern foreign languages, design and technology, information and communication technology (ICT), music, religious education (RE), Welsh and English. Contact individual course providers to check availability.

Candidates undertaking teacher training in Wales are not required to sit skills tests in order to achieve qualified teacher status (QTS). This applies even if you go on to teach outside Wales. Contact your chosen ITT provider for more information.

ITT courses are offered by higher education (HE) institutions across Wales. Details are available from Teacher Training & Education in Wales.

Partnership schools involved in ITT may be located across a wide geographical area to provide experience of both rural and urban schools.

Teacher Training & Education in Wales and Welsh Assembly Government - Education and Skills are good sources of general information for teaching in Wales.

Language requirements

There are both English and Welsh-speaking schools in Wales. In a Welsh-speaking school, the ability to teach through the medium of Welsh will normally be necessary.

Applicants do not have to be a Welsh speaker to undertake ITT in Wales (unless undertaking a Welsh-medium course). Welsh is a core curriculum subject and is compulsory for all students up to the age of 16. Should you wish to teach in a primary school, you will be required to learn and teach basic Welsh and will be encouraged to learn Welsh on the primary PGCE course.
Courses

Applications are made through the Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR) and you can search on the website for courses available throughout Wales.

Where to train

The following universities all offer ITT courses in Wales:

- Aberystwyth University (01970 621580)
- Bangor University (01248 383082)
- Swansea Metropolitan University, School of Education (01792 482105)
- Cardiff Metropolitan University (029 20416010)
- University of Wales, Newport (01633 432432)
- University of Wales Trinity Saint David (01267 676767)
- Open University in Wales (02920 471019)

You can continue to apply for the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP), an employment-based ITT, in Wales. Both funded and unfunded places are available.

Funding

The table below shows the levels of funding available to students on different postgraduate teaching courses, depending on your first degree results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree classification</th>
<th>PGCE secondary courses in mathematics, physics, chemistry, modern languages and Welsh</th>
<th>PGCE secondary courses in ICT, design and technology, English, biology, history, RE, art, PE, music, drama and geography</th>
<th>PGCE primary courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First (or 2:1 in physics)</td>
<td>£15,000</td>
<td>£3,000</td>
<td>£3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:1 (not in physics)</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:2</td>
<td>£6,000</td>
<td>£0</td>
<td>£0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who are ordinarily resident in Wales and starting full-time postgraduate ITT courses in the 2012/13 academic year may also be eligible to receive a tuition fee grant of up to £5,535.

Additional sources of funding may be available. For more details see Teacher Training & Education in Wales.

Loans for fees and maintenance
Prospective students can apply for student finance provided by Student Finance Wales. The rules about who qualifies for student finance are complex - see the Student Finance Wales website for more details.

Loans for fees and maintenance are based on:

- where you normally live;
- the kind of ITT course you are on;
- the subject you are training to teach;
- personal circumstances;
- where you are training.

A means-tested Welsh Assembly learning grant/maintenance grant may be available. Prospective PGCE students should contact their relevant student finance company for advice.

**Employment-based funding**

Student teachers on the Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP) in Wales may receive a salary from their school. This is usually at least equal to the minimum point on the unqualified teacher pay scale, but schools may choose to pay more.

**Additional financial support**

Sources may include:

- Welsh National Bursary Scheme;
- Disabled Students’ Allowances (DSAs);
- Childcare Grant to help cover the costs of childcare for student parents;
- Adult Dependant’s Grant - extra financial help for students who have an adult that depends on them financially;
- Financial Contingency Fund (FCF).

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**Curriculum**

**Cwricwlwm Cymreig (Welsh curriculum)**

Schools in Wales follow broadly the same national curriculum, which is delivered in English, Welsh, bilingually or in a faith setting. Schooling is structured in the same way as in England (see the AGCAS publication Teacher Training for more details). Briefly, the system is split into:

- Foundation Phase (3- to 7-year-olds);
- Key Stages 2, 3 and 4;
- post-16 education.

A notable difference in the Welsh school system is that it specifies that all subjects should be taught from a Welsh perspective or have some kind of Welsh dimension. A revised
curriculum, which has a greater focus on skills, was implemented in September 2008 for 3- to 19-year-olds in Wales. See the Welsh Assembly Government - Education and Skills website for more information.

The Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification combines personal development skills with existing qualifications like A-levels, NVQs and GCSEs to make one wider award. It can be studied in English or Welsh, or a combination of the two languages.

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### Applying for jobs

To teach in maintained schools in Wales as a newly qualified teacher (NQT), you must be registered with the General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW).

### Induction

Following government consultations in England and Wales, the Welsh Government has reviewed its induction arrangements. New arrangements for induction come into force in September 2012 - see the Induction for newly qualified teachers in Wales publication for more information.

### Recruitment trends

#### Primary

Obtaining a job in a primary school in Wales can be competitive and it is not uncommon for NQTs to be in supply work obtained either directly from schools or through teacher recruitment agencies.

#### Secondary

Mathematics, physics, chemistry and modern foreign languages continue to be shortage subjects. Other Teaching Agency priority subjects are art and design, design and technology, economics, engineering, English, dance, drama, geography, history, ICT, computer science, classics, music, biology, PE and RE.

#### Post-compulsory

The Welsh government is now offering funding for ITT in further education (FE). Grants of up to £3,000 for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and up to £1,000 for all other subjects will be offered to eligible students on postgraduate FE courses.

Adult education Welsh-language evening classes seem to be a growth area, which is leading to greater demand for freelance tutors.

### Teaching vacancies

Vacancies are advertised in:
• **Times Educational Supplement (TES);**
• **JobsWales** and the **South Wales Evening Post** for south and west Wales;
• **Cambrian News** for mid and west Wales;
• **Golwg** for Welsh-medium posts;
• **UCAC** - the teachers’ union for Wales;

There are many recruitment agencies who advertise teaching jobs so you may want to research these as well.

**Local authority vacancies**

- Some local authorities (LAs) operate a pool system for primary posts. Advertisements appear in the press for these in mid-January.
- LAs may hold a supply teacher database or contract this and other recruitment out to a supply agency to manage for them.

To research inspection reports for schools in Wales, visit the **Estyn** website.

Full details of teacher recruitment policies for LAs in Wales are available from the **National Union of Teachers (NUT).**

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