

**Kingston
University**
London

Primary Teaching leading to QTS BA(Hons)

single honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/primaryteaching



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Our programme

This three-year, full-time course will equip you for the complex role of a primary school teacher working in a fast-changing and stimulating professional environment. You will have the opportunity to develop your expertise in a specialist subject in Years 1, 2 and 3.

School experience in our excellent range of partnership schools is an integral part of the curriculum.

During your Primary Teaching degree you will:

- become fully versed in the core primary curriculum subjects of English, maths, science and IT, as well as curriculum in the arts, humanities, physical education and primary languages;
- develop expertise in your specialist subject; and
- learn the techniques that will help you to inspire and enthuse children.

As there are many subjects covered in primary teaching, classes are mostly in smaller groups of around 25. This ensures that you receive your tutor's individual attention and can discuss any issues as they arise. You will frequently work with two or three other students, preparing something to present at the subject's next seminar. The practical, interactive classes make learning fun, interesting and easier. You're not only hearing different views, but also taking part and discussing how to apply what's being taught. Your subject specialism is likely to be enhanced by a number of trips, which will help to bring the subject to life and enable you to study it in context.

School placements

School placements are a major part of the course, comprising seven weeks in Year 1, eight weeks in Year 2 and 10 weeks in your final year. This gives you the chance to gain real, on-the-job training under supervision.

The School of Education works in partnership with a wide range of primary schools, taking a leading role in the training of a new generation of teachers. This means that:

- placement opportunities can arise from a pool of hundreds of schools;
- you are likely to have a choice of placement locations and experience different schools, helping you make more-informed career choices; and
- employers recognise the calibre of Kingston Primary Teaching graduates.

In addition to partner schools throughout Surrey and Greater London, we are also developing relationships with schools overseas. So, as well as European exchange opportunities, you will also have the chance to do life-enhancing short exchanges with partner schools in India and Africa for example.

Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies. We help both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts; and
- referencing.

CASE also provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.

Learning from the experts

As well as being taught by the School's enthusiastic, well-qualified and experienced staff, you will also attend pedagogic classes (learning teaching skills) that involve outside speakers such as heads, deputies and subject and special needs co-ordinators. For instance, when a new educational initiative is launched, guest speakers from schools will come to the campus to explain how it is being implemented. These lectures usually include a question-and-answer session, so you can find out everything you want to know about the subject being discussed and how things are being done in schools. This provides a good grounding for educational management roles.

Additional academic support

Whatever difficulties you face, there is support available to help you reach your full potential. We have a study skills co-ordinator whose role is to provide additional tuition in English and Maths. This service is available to anyone who wishes to improve their ability in either of these fields. It provides an invaluable safety net for anyone who fears they may lag behind in these crucial primary teaching subjects.

You will also use StudySpace, which is a web-based learning management system that provides access to a host of information and material to assist with your studies – resources vary from module to module. Other useful features include online discussion forums (bulletin boards), a virtual classroom and, when appropriate, a drop-box for online submission of coursework.

Careers

The employment record of our BA(Hons) graduates is high. Many students gain positions at our partner schools and report that their Kingston training provided them with an excellent start to their career. Former trainees have become subject co-ordinators, deputy heads, head teachers and members of advisory and inspection teams.

Why study teaching at Kingston University?

- This is a relevant, thought-provoking and enjoyable course provided in partnership with schools.
- The School of Education is rated among the top education departments in the country, with the *Guardian* university league table ranking the School in the top five in the United Kingdom for the last four years.
- You will gain specialist subject expertise along with training in all core areas of the primary curriculum.
- Stimulating fieldwork is included in many subject specialisms.
- Professional accreditation is awarded alongside an academic qualification.
- Our many contacts with schools provide ample placement opportunities. You may also have the opportunity to carry out a placement in a partner school in Europe, India, Nepal or Africa.
- Personal tutors and a strong educational support system ensure you can get all the help you need to reach your full potential.



Want to know more?
[www.kingston.ac.uk/
primaryteaching](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/primaryteaching)

What you will study

You will study the core elements of the National Curriculum, ICT and the wider curriculum, together with your chosen subject specialism. Pedagogy – the art of teaching – underpins the degree, giving you opportunities to develop a full range of professional skills. The skills you gain will be applied on school experience in each year of the programme, leading to qualification across the full primary phase (5–11 years of age).

Year 1

- Core Subjects: English, Maths, Science, ICT, The Arts, Humanities, Languages and Culture
- School Experience
- Professional Studies

Year 2

- As Year 1, but with a subject specialism and a longer school experience, with options in The Arts, Humanities and Languages and Culture.

Year 3

- As Year 2, with the subject specialism continued and a 10-week school experience.

Subject specialisms

You can choose to specialise in English, Geography and History, Mathematics or Science.

Each specialism involves two strands:

- The first strand builds your academic knowledge of your specialism within primary schools, developing skills and techniques to enthuse children.
- The second looks at the role of your specialism. You'll be well prepared to become a teacher and potentially a subject leader in your chosen field.

The subject specialism takes approximately a fifth of your total degree study time. Most specialist subjects involve a number of trips and excursions. These deepen your understanding and enhance what is being taught. They also help you develop the skills you need to organise school outings.

English

Choosing English as your subject specialism will give you the opportunity to study a range of contemporary and classic adult and children's literature. In addition, you will explore the pedagogical implications of this enhanced subject knowledge and engage with the use of drama, the moving image and ICT in the classroom context. The course will also enable you to examine how children acquire language and literacy and discuss key theories of language in education. All three modules are closely interrelated. Following on from reading a wide range of literature, you will also analyse your own skills as a writer and relate this to the teaching of writing by creating your own short story, which is shared with children in the classroom.

Theatre visits play a key part in your study of classic and contemporary adult and children's literature, and students are encouraged to engage with productions and workshops at the Rose Theatre in Kingston www.rosetheatrekingston.org, which has strong links with the University. Students are also invited to play an active role in the author workshops and events that form part of degree courses taught in the University's main campus at Penrhyn Road.

Geography and History

Geography and history are closely connected subjects in the primary curriculum.

Geography explores a variety of themes and places within local, national and international contexts. You will study key elements in the primary geography curriculum and how geography contributes to a wider primary curriculum, particularly in literacy, numeracy and history. Cross-curricular themes of citizenship and sustainability also feature in your studies. You will use your knowledge of geographical skills, such as mapping and fieldwork techniques, to consider various approaches to teaching geography.

Fieldwork plays an integral part, and you will take part in study visits to a variety of locations. These give you the chance to study geographical features and plan how you would manage a class excursion to the locations. In addition, the course normally incorporates two residential study visits.

During the first year there is a joint Geography–History visit to a UK location such as Dorset, Yorkshire or Devon, where you will spend time studying the geography of the coast and the geography and history of settlements such as seaside resorts. In the second year, studies of the European dimension are enhanced by a study visit to a major European city such as Amsterdam, Barcelona or Berlin.

History encourages pupils to become deductive, imaginative and perceptive. Like geography, it allows us to explore the diversity of human experience. This course offers in-depth opportunities to critically evaluate the design and management of history teaching and learning. You will study topics directly related to the primary curriculum, such as:

- the Romans;
- Britain and the wider world in Tudor times; and
- Victorian Britain.

We use museums and active learning at historic sites as part of an 'investigative' approach to learning. You will also explore the roles of story, role-play and sources such as film and portraits in enriching representations of the past.

History daytrips take advantage of local amenities such as Hampton Court Palace and the wealth of museums near the University. On these trips, you will discover more about our history and consider how you would organise school trips to such locations.

You will also have the opportunity to select an area of interest in geography and/or history in which to undertake more in-depth research.

Mathematics

Specialist teachers of mathematics have an important role in primary schools, and this course provides the underpinning knowledge. You will promote your understanding of mathematics, and will develop the knowledge, skills and understanding to teach children mathematics creatively and confidently. You will study mathematics in depth to be able to deliver the full range of the primary mathematics curriculum from Reception to year 6, covering aspects such as:

- using and applying mathematics;
- counting and understanding numbers;
- knowing and using number facts;
- calculating;
- understanding shape;
- measuring; and
- handling data.

The focus for each year is as follows:

- Year 1– Developing the progression of mathematics from FS into secondary topics. There is a particular focus on Ma1 (including in the real world) and pedagogy.
- Year 2 – The history of mathematics and its relevance to the mathematics we teach children today; maths in the real world; and developing thinking in mathematics.
- Year 3 – The management of mathematics (preparation for a co-ordinator role) and the dissertation.

Organised trips to museums and places of interest enhance the importance of mathematics in the real world, and highlight possibilities for school trips in the future.

Science

This specialism covers physics, chemistry and biology, plus how to manage the curriculum. You'll consider effective teaching approaches and engage in a variety of techniques to develop your confidence, including:

- practical sessions;
- presentations;
- group discussions;
- examination of children's work; and
- directed self-study.

Science also contributes to wider aspects of the curriculum, such as citizenship and environmental education, so you will develop an interactive teaching approach that links in to the wider themes characterising primary education.

Visits and fieldwork are an important part of the course. They aim to deepen your understanding of and interest in science by providing a stimulating context for study. Educational visits will be made to local sites; for example, RHS Wisley and the Science Museum. As well as discovering more about your specialist subject, you will think about how to organise a school trip to the location and engage a class in the topic.

What our students say

Name: Paul Ryan

Course: BA(Hons) Primary Teaching leading to Qualified Teacher Status (subject specialism English)

"If anyone had asked me at school if I would ever become a teacher, I would have said 'definitely not'. It certainly took a few years for me to arrive at the stage where I decided that I wanted to embark on an ITT course.

"After my A-Levels I needed a break and some time to think, so I went down another career route but I felt I had more to offer. I wanted to do something where reward was inherent in what I was doing, rather than just in the pay cheque.

"I had memories of the kind of fulfilment I was after from some work with children I had done in the past, and those memories, combined with an interest in education and learning that I had never really explored, led me to apply for this course.

"I chose English as my specialism because I felt speaking, listening, reading and writing are fundamental to children's development and are a way of stimulating imagination and creativity.

"I have found that Kingston has hardworking lecturers who care deeply about what they are doing. There's plenty of opportunity for group work, which makes a sociable, collaborative style of learning that I would like to promote in my own teaching. Some of the lectures have been really interactive and stimulating, and I find that what the lecturers do in their teaching has an effect on mine.

"The School of Education provides all students on the course with a tutor who is there to help with any problems. Meetings can be arranged and

I have found my tutors to be incredibly helpful when I have approached them with some of the stresses I have encountered.

"One of the most interesting classes was a Special Educational Needs (SEN) research project. It was already a subject where I held a particular interest. I have also particularly enjoyed my specialism classes, which have given me a valuable insight into exciting methods of helping children engage with classic texts that could be considered to be inaccessible.

"Last year's placement was very informative. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work with an excellent teacher who had a really good relationship with her class. I learnt a great deal about behaviour management and teaching in general. This year's first week of school experience, which I have just finished, has been particularly positive, and enjoyable as well.

"I think the most valuable thing about this course is the real feeling that I am building my knowledge and developing my thinking."

"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique among universities in the United Kingdom."

Professor Martin McQuillan
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Top-class reputation

Kingston University has provided courses in initial teacher training for over 100 years, and has developed an excellent reputation over this time.

- The School of Education is rated among the top education departments in the country.
- The *Guardian* university league table 2011 ranked the School as third in the United Kingdom.
- The National Student Survey, which monitors satisfaction with university courses, has led to the School being rated highly in the United Kingdom for the quality of its BA(Hons) in Primary Teaching.
- The School of Education is also approved by the Training Agency for Schools.
- The School is regarded by Ofsted (the government agency that monitors teaching standards in education) as a high-quality training provider across its primary and secondary courses.



Entry requirements

Typical offer

- Points: 240
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent with a minimum of 100 points in your subject specialism if applying for English or 80 points if applying for Geography/History, Maths or Science.
- Plus GCSE (A-C): five subjects, to include English Language, Mathematics and Science. If applying for the Geography and History specialism, you also need to have a minimum GCSE grade C in Geography or History.
- Key Skills are not accepted as a substitute for GCSE grades.
- CACHE Diploma is not accepted unless an A-level in one of the subject specialisms is also obtained and the 240 points requirement is met.
- Experience of the primary school environment is also essential.

Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on our course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

Other entry routes

Applications from students with alternative qualifications are welcome and will be considered on individual merit.

UCAS codes

XQD3 – 3yrs FT English (5–11 years)
XF1V – 3yrs FT Geography & History (5–11 years)
XC11 – 3yrs FT Science (5–11 years)
XG11 – 3yrs FT Mathematics (5–11 years)

Open days

The University runs several open days throughout the year. Staff from the School of Education are present at these events to answer your questions about the best route into teacher training for you. www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays

The School of Education also hosts a number of Open Sessions. Visit www.kingston.ac.uk/fass/schools/education/open for more information.

Contact details

Course enquiries

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