Course overview
The BEd degree offers professional and academic training. It is structured to allow you to develop the skills required by primary teachers to teach the full range of National Curriculum subjects with a strong emphasis on English and mathematics and to develop specific expertise for making a distinctive contribution to primary practice. The BEd prepares you to meet the needs of individual learners through fostering a positive classroom climate. Within Developing Professional Practice modules, you will gain understanding of areas such as child development, diversity, special educational needs and disabilities, behaviour and learners with English as an additional language.

Alongside taught content at the university, you will be placed in one of our partnership schools each year in order to develop your skills as a teacher and make links between theory and practice. As the course progresses, the demands of each placement will increase, so that by the end of the course you will be prepared for employment as a newly qualified teacher.

The course offers you an age-related programme chosen on application, so that you will follow either a Foundation Stage / Key stage 1 (3 – 7 years) or Key Stage 1 / Key Stage 2 (5 – 11 years) pathway. At the end of the course, you will be qualified to teach 3 – 11 year olds.

“This course is great preparation for a career as a teacher. My last placement led to me being offered a job at the school and I've got my own year 4 class now. It's great but keeps me very busy.”

Scott Ireton
BEd Primary Education
Why study the course

- Excellent opportunities for graduates with many obtaining first teaching posts in local schools
- School based training enables your learning to be based in professional practice
- Excellent partnerships with primary schools enable you to benefit from the range of expertise of local teachers
- First class tuition and support - the teaching quality and excellent provision in the School have been consistently recognised by trainees, partner schools, employing schools and Ofsted
- Programme of study designed to produce first class teachers - newly validated content ensures currency in today’s education climate

First Year

This year is about giving you an introduction to educational theory, pedagogical skills and developing your subject knowledge for learning and teaching in primary education. Your first year modules will include ‘Children’s Development in English’ and ‘An introduction to mathematics in learning’.

Second Year

The second year of study will give you a consolidation of theory, knowledge and skills, with opportunities to reflect on practice. Some taught modules focus particularly on diversity and inclusion.

Final Year

Your final year of study will focus on the enrichment of learning over the course of the degree. There will be opportunities to focus upon areas of interest in specific subjects and issues in primary education.

Placement/study abroad

There are twenty-four weeks of assessed school based training spread over the three years of the degree. In each year you are placed in a partnership school under the guidance of a class teacher who has received mentor training from the University.

Application and interview

To ensure teaching is the right career for you and to enable you to gain insight into current practice, you will need to have completed at least 5 days consecutive, recent work experience in a state primary school prior to application. During this time, you will need to complete identified school-based tasks that will help you to focus on the role of the teacher in children’s learning. In your personal statement, you need to clearly state the time spent in school and reflect on this experience. While in school, you will also need to gain feedback from the class teacher or head teacher about your potential to teach. The form detailing these tasks is available from www.herts.ac.uk. The signed form must be brought to interview.

Skills test

Once you apply for a teacher training course, you will need to register and undertake Professional Skills Tests in literacy and numeracy. You must pass these tests before starting on the course, as well as meeting any other conditions identified when offering you a place.

Additional support

- Learning Resources Centre open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Designated school mentor to monitor progress and set placement targets
- Access to one of the UK’s most sophisticated on-line learning environments, StudyNet.
- Peer mentoring scheme

UCAS code: X122
Course length: Full time, 3 years
Entry requirements: 280 UCAS points in accepted A Level and BTEC subjects* plus GCSE English Language, Mathematics and Science Grade C or above. Minimum 5 days work experience in a state primary school is required to undertake specific tasks prior to application (*see website for full details)

Website address: go.herts.ac.uk/x122

Career opportunities

At the end of the programme you will be recommended for Qualified Teacher Status and be ready to start your teaching career in a primary school. The School of Education has an excellent record of employment and those who actively seek a teaching post at the end of the programme are successful in joining the profession. There are further opportunities to continue your studies with a Master’s degree.

Find out more about the School of Education on herts.ac.uk/education