Course overview
The PGCE Primary course is a full time one year teacher training qualification for people with a first degree (honours degree achieved at 2:2 or above), who want to become foundation stage and primary school teachers. It is designed to ensure you meet the academic and professional demands of teaching 3 – 11 year olds. The student experience is of paramount importance to us and there is a clear support structure in place. These include university tutors and a designated school mentor to monitor progress and set targets on placement.

Why study at Hertfordshire
- First class tuition and support - the teaching quality and excellent provision in the School have been consistently recognised by trainees, partner schools, employing schools, Ofsted etc.
- Programme of study designed to produce first class teachers - flexible, creative content ensures currency in today’s education climate
- Excellent partnerships with local primary schools enables students to develop their classroom practice

“The university tutors have been fantastic and I’ve had brilliant mentors in school that have really encouraged me to be the best teacher I can be. I am proud of everything I have achieved. I’m excited to begin my teaching career.”

Paul Dutton
Primary PGCE student
About the course
The PGCE Primary programme 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. It also prepares you to meet the needs of individual learners by developing your awareness of child development, diversity, special educational needs and disabilities, behaviour and learners with English as an additional language.

Alongside taught content at the University and engagement with online learning materials, you will be engaged in school-based training, where you will further develop your skills to become an excellent classroom teacher.

The PGCE programme is an intensive course which should not be undertaken lightly. It requires a good deal of physical and emotional resilience to complete successfully. You need to be sure that you can meet the demands of the course and that the ethos and working style of the University of Hertfordshire suit your style of working.

The programme is offered as a full-time, 1 year course (5 days a week attendance).

The PGCE is offered at master’s level and the 60 M-level credits gained can be accredited towards a master’s degree, via our Continuing Professional Development programme.

Application and interview
Our trainees are independent learners, resourceful, communicate well and display resilience: We assess candidates for these qualities at 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.

Professional Skills Tests
Once you apply for a teacher training course, you will need to register to undertake Professional Skills Tests in literacy and numeracy. Information is available on the Department for Education’s website: http://sta.education.gov.uk/. You must pass these tests before starting the course. Personal suitability for teaching is important and is assessed at interview. We also welcome applications from those with other relevant experience of working with primary aged children. Please give full details of all such experience in your personal statement. During registration on the programme, you will be required to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) barred list and criminal records check.

Career opportunities
At the end of the programme you will be recommended for Qualified Teacher Status and be ready to start your teaching career. 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.

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