THE BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY TEACHER
Committed
Creative
Confident
Collaborative

BIRMINGHAM CITY University

Primary initial teacher education

in partnership with Birmingham City University

Mentoring the next generation of primary teachers for our region.

Placement Opportunities Brochure 2026/27

The Primary ITE courses at BCU provide the sector with the highest number of associate teachers across the West Midlands region. We run two successful primary ITE programmes both of which facilitate a choice of specialism in age phases 3-7 or 5-11.

- PGCE Primary and Early Years with QTS
- Undergraduate BA (Hons) Primary Education with QTS

We are very keen to secure the support of new and existing partners to meet the challenge of securing high quality School-Based Training Placements for 2026/27.



A warm welcome from BCU

Dear school partners,

We send you our best wishes for the summer term and thank you to those of you who have hosted associate teachers in your schools this academic year.

We are now looking forward to the 2026/27 academic year and considering how we can continue our important work in training and educating our new associate teachers who will join us in September and our continuing associate teachers who will be continuing into the later years of their undergraduate degree.

Due to our valuable partnerships with your schools and your assistance in providing placements, BCU has been able to support many associate teachers into employment in the sector. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in your school for their contribution to this work. We are delighted to see that so many of our PGCE Secondary and BA/BSc Secondary associate teachers remain in the region following completion of their training programme and securing ECT posts. This is a real strength of our partnership, and we are proud to be working with you to train the next generation of secondary school teachers.

We are committed to developing effective and strategic teacher education partnerships. This includes offering CPD opportunities to partners, accredited mentor training, support for early career teachers and, most importantly, the opportunity to contribute to the design and delivery of our ITE curriculum. We advertise all partnership events in monthly newsletters, which are available on our partnership webpages.

It is quick and easy to register your interest for placements. If you hosted placements this year, you will already have access to the Placement Communication Portal and can make your offers there. If you are new or returning school partner, please complete the 'expression of interest' survey at the end of this document and someone will then be in contact with you.

Best wishes,



Kelly Davey Nicklin
Initial Teacher Training Partnership Lead

Core Values

Committed

Associate teachers at BCU are committed to:

- Being outstanding teachers
- Creating a vibrant learning environment in which all learners will thrive
- Meeting the needs of all learners and their communities
- Taking responsibility for their own professional development and learning
- Having excellent subject and pedagogical knowledge

Creative

Associate teachers are creative in:

- Inspiring and motivating all learners
- Developing learning and teaching through research and evidence
- Overcoming disadvantage and barriers to learning
- Developing the impact of their professional practice

Confident

Associate teachers at BCU are confident to:

- Act as leaders of learning
- Adapt flexibly and proactively to change
- Work effectively with all partners in learning
- Demonstrate responsibility and be accountable for their professional actions and decisions

Collaborative

Associate teachers are collaborative by:

- Understanding that authentic and effective collaboration is an essential element of professional practice
- Working effectively with expert teachers across partner organisations
- Working with peers and subject / phase experts to develop effective curricula
- Embodying the ethos and vision of partner organisations in their professional role
- Participating in practice -led research discourses to deepen and develop a community of learning

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Primary - undergraduate school-based training

Here are example timetables for undergraduate Year 1, 2 and 3 placements for 2026/2027.
Please note that for Year 2, ATs will return to their host school to complete an ITaP.

Week	Year 1				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
1 Mar	PPSE	PPSE		BCU	BCU
8 Mar	PPSE	PPSE	BCU	BCU - ITAP	SBT - ITAP
15 Mar	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	BCU - ITAP
22 Mar	SBT - ITAP	PPSE	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	BCU
29 Mar	Easter break				
5 Apr					
12 Apr	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE
19 Apr	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	BCU - ITAP	BCU - ITAP	SBT - ITAP
26 Apr	SBT - ITAP	PPSE	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	PPSE
3 May	BH	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1
10 May	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1
17 May	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1
24 May	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1
31 May	Reading/study week (school half-term)				
7 June	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1
14 June	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1

Week	Year 2				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
12 Oct	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE
19 Oct	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	BCU - ITAP
26 Oct	Reading/study week (school half-term)				
2 Nov	PPSE	SBT - ITAP	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	SBT - ITAP
9 Nov	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2
16 Nov	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2
23 Nov	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2
30 Nov	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2
7 Dec	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2
14 Dec	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2
Return for ITaP					
19 Apr	BCU - ITAP			SBT - ITAP	
26 Apr		BCU - ITAP		SBT - ITAP	
3 May	BH	BCU - ITAP		SBT - ITAP	

Week	Year 3				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
4 Jan				BCU - ITAP	
11 Jan	PPSE	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	PPSE	SBT - ITAP
18 Jan	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	PPSE	PPSE	SBT - ITAP
25 Jan	BCU - ITAP	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
1 Feb	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
8 Feb	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
15 Feb	Reading/study week (school half-term)				
22 Feb	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
1 Mar	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
8 Mar	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
15 Mar	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
22 Mar	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	BCU	BH

Key

- BH — Bank holiday
- Holiday
- School placement day
- School ITaP day
- University ITaP day

Primary PGCE - postgraduate school-based training

Here is an example timetable for the postgraduate placements. SBT1 and SBT2 is the home school placement and SBT3 is the contrasting school placement.

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
31 Aug		Induction	Induction	Home School	Home School
7 Sept	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU
14 Sept	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU
21 Sept	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU
28 Sept	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU - ITAP	BCU
5 Oct	PPSE	PPSE	BCU	PPSE	BCU
12 Oct	SBT - ITAP	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	SBT - ITAP	BCU
19 Oct	BCU - ITAP	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE
26 Oct	Reading/study week (school half-term)				
2 Nov	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1
9 Nov	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1
16 Nov	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	BCU - ITAP
23 Nov	SBT1	SBT - ITAP	SBT1	SBT1	BCU - ITAP
30 Nov	SBT - ITAP	SBT1	BCU - ITAP	SBT1	SBT1
7 Dec	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1
14 Dec	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1	SBT1
21 Dec	Christmas break				
28 Dec					
4 Jan	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU
11 Jan	BCU	BCU	PPSE	PPSE	BCU
18 Jan	BCU - ITAP	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	BCU
25 Jan	SBT - ITAP	PPSE	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	BCU
1 Feb	SBT - ITAP	PPSE	PPSE	BCU - ITAP	BCU
8 Feb	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2
15 Feb	Reading/study week (school half-term)				
22 Feb	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2
1 Mar	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	BCU - ITAP
8 Mar	SBT2	SBT - ITAP	SBT2	SBT2	BCU - ITAP
15 Mar	SBT - ITAP	SBT2	BCU - ITAP	SBT2	SBT2
22 Mar	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	SBT2	BH
29 Mar	Easter break				
5 Apr					
12 Apr	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU
19 Apr	BCU	BCU	BCU	Secondary	Secondary
26 Apr	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE
3 May	BH	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE	PPSE
10 May	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
17 May	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
24 May	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
31 May	Reading/study week (school half-term)				
7 June	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
14 June	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
21 June	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
28 June	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
5 July	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3	SBT3
12 July	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU
19 July					

Key

- School ITaP day
- University ITaP day
- Holiday
- BH — Bank holiday
- Placement day
- University day

ITT mentor training 2026/27

Mentoring support

BCU provides both online and in-person mentor training and support for all our school-based mentors. `Brightspace' is used as an online platform for delivering asynchronous mentor training modules that can be completed at a time convenient to our mentors. Additional mentor training and support will also be provided during school visits from a member of our BCU Lead Mentor team and during online synchronous briefing sessions.

The ITT Criteria published by the DfE (2025) requires that ITT mentors need to understand the Associate Teachers' ITT Curriculum, the relevant research base which informs it and their role in supporting its implementation. It also states that ITT mentors will need to ensure that school-based training experiences are aligned to the ITT curriculum. This is essential to ensure that mentors are able to provide informed, targeted, consistent, and actionable feedback that is fully aligned with the ITT curriculum. High-quality practice should be modelled and exemplified in ways that reflect and reinforce the structure and sequence of the curriculum, so that associate teachers have opportunities for purposeful practice in relation to key concepts and high-quality feedback.

Our Mentor Training programme includes dedicated pathways for new and existing mentors, and professional mentors including an annual refresh of our curriculum and the BCU ITE Mentoring Model. We also offer advanced mentor training opportunities through the completion of Master's level modules available from September 2026.

Full details of how to access online mentor training and relevant briefing dates will be shared with school mentors prior to start of the next academic year and once placement allocations are confirmed.



Teaching commitments

Undergraduate

Year 1
Teach one lesson a day building to a 50% timetable.

Year 2
Building to teach 60% of the timetable.

Year 3
Building to teach 80% of a full-time teacher's timetable towards the end of the placement as appropriate to the school's curriculum and timetable.

Postgraduate

Placement 1 and 2 (October - March)
Teach one lesson a day building to a 50% timetable, then 60% timetable during placement 2.

Placement 3 (April to July)
Building to teach 80% of a full-time teacher's timetable towards the end of the placement as appropriate to the school's curriculum and timetable.



BCU ITE curriculum

The BCU ITE curriculum is cyclical in nature to enable content to be learnt, revisited and applied. Our PGCE and undergraduate associate teachers will experience this across their three year course.

The spiral curriculum is not simply the repetition of any topic taught. It also requires the deepening of it, with each successive encounter building on the previous one. Each module within the primary ITE curriculum ensures that associate teachers acquire research-led pedagogical and curriculum knowledge, and moreover, develop a clear insight into how to implement this knowledge as they develop their teaching skills with the support of expert colleagues across the BCU regional partnership.

BCU core curriculum themes ensure that BCU associate teachers:

Theme A: Critical Enquiry and Research-Informed Practice
Use critical enquiry and research informed practice to develop understanding of effective teaching and learning.

Theme B: Behaviour and Wellbeing
Establish effective behaviour management using high expectations and awareness of pupil wellbeing.

Theme C: Subject Knowledge and Subject Pedagogy
Know, remember and apply subject knowledge and subject specific pedagogy to impact on pupils' progress.

Theme D: Planning and Assessment
Use knowledge about how pupils learn to plan and assess learning to ensure that all pupils make progress.

Theme E: Adaptive Teaching
Implement effective adaptive teaching approaches to meet all learners' needs, including SEND and EAL learners.

Theme F: Professional Behaviours
Consistently uphold professional behaviours and contribute effectively to the wider life of the school.



Intensive Training and Practice (ITaP)

During the 2026/27 academic year, our postgraduate and undergraduate curricula will feature Intensive Training and Practice (ITaP) opportunities. The five pivotal areas encompass Behaviour: Rules, Routines, and Transitions, Modelling and Guided Practice: Mathematics focus, Adaptive Teaching: Scaffolding, Assessment: Questioning and Phonics.

Each area is framed by key questions designed to strengthen the connection between research informed theory and classroom practice and enable our associate teachers (ATs) to develop a critical and enquiring mindset. Each ITaP is structured around Grossman's (2018) framework: introduce, analyse, prepare, enact, and assess. For both our PGCE and undergraduate ATs this will be delivered in a strategically sequenced series of days spread across a few weeks.

While some ITaP experiences take place in the university, schools play a crucial role. Mentors are central to the success of ITaP in supporting associate teachers to notice and analyse expert practice, provide opportunities for guided practice, and use mentoring conversations to reinforce learning from ITaP sessions.

BCU provides mentor training linked to each ITaP focus area, with university tutors available to offer additional, tailored support to schools seeking to strengthen staff knowledge in these areas.



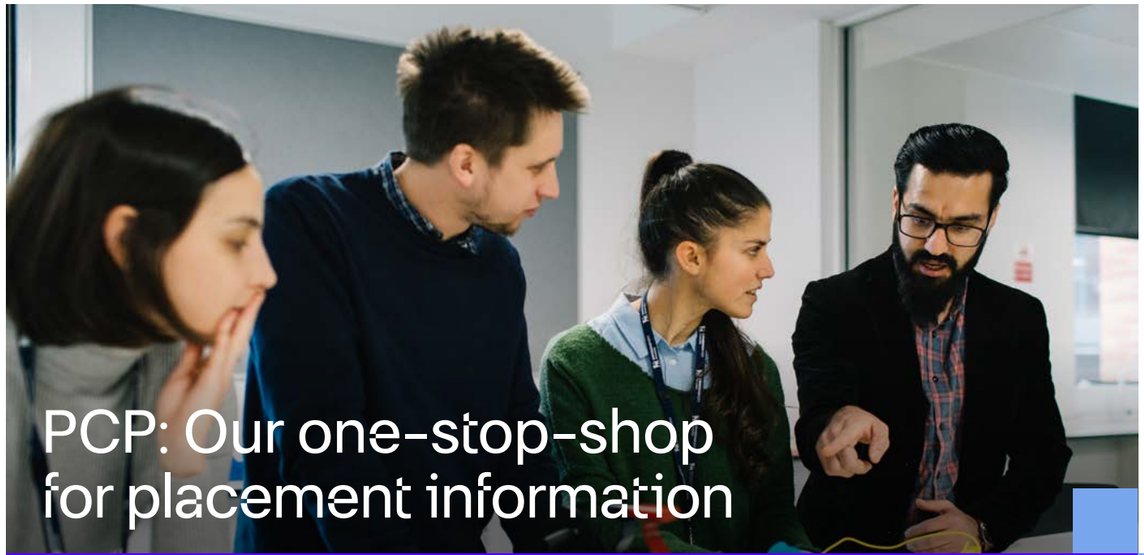
Placement payments

BCU will pay schools the amount listed in the table per placement. The ITT Criteria (2024) requires that every associate teacher receives 1.5 hours per week of mentoring support. This payment is a contribution to the school for the weekly mentor support (including ITaPs).

Number of associate teachers

1 £400
2 £450
3 £500
4+ £600

Payments will be made in the term after the school-based placement is completed and payments will be made electronically into your school's bank account when the relevant documentation is submitted (this includes a completed and signed End of Placement Report for each associate teacher and completion of the online mentor survey). Please note that for associate teachers whose time on placement comes to an end before the midpoint assessment, a pro-rata payment will be paid to the school based on the number of placement days completed. If an associate teacher's placement ends after the midpoint assessment, the full amount will still be paid.



PCP: Our one-stop-shop for placement information

All our school partners are registered on our Placement Communication Portal 'PCP'. PCP facilitates communication with you as our partner schools. You will make offers of placements through the portal and be able to view all Associate Teacher details in one central place. The portal offers benefits that will make the administration of school placements more straightforward for you as partners in school. After the launch of this portal in the current academic year, partners have found this very helpful to support them in managing placements.

The portal offers:

- a central record of all Associate Teacher details and their assigned classes/subject and mentors
- an easy way to access Letters of Assurance for each Associate Teacher whenever needed
- a simple overview of all placement offers made to keep track of upcoming placements
- an easy-to-access repository of all the necessary information needed to support placements, with links to mentor training and all necessary placement documents

Registering your interest for placements for 2026/27



It is quick and easy to let us know that you would like to host associate teachers on placement with you next year!

If you are new to our partnership, please use the link below to take you to the Birmingham City University - ITE Placement expression of Interest Form 2026/27 when this has been completed, our placement team will be in contact to help get you set up on the Placement Communication Portal.

If you are an existing partner and already have access to our placement portal 'PCP', you can simply login and submit your availability in the 'Placement Offers' section.

Contacts

Should you have any questions regarding the school-based placements, please get in touch with one of our Education Partnerships Team on:

0121 331 7105

education.placements@bcu.ac.uk

Our Primary Education Partnerships Team manages the administration elements of the programme. A key element of their work is in sourcing placements and managing payments for partner schools.

BA (Hons) with QTS Course

Leader - Rachel Gillett

primaryandearlyyearsbacourseleads@bcu.ac.uk

Rachel is the course lead for the BA (Hons) with QTS. She oversees the curriculum and operation of the course. She also monitors the overall progress of associate teachers on the course.

Primary PGCE

Course Leader - Alison Pemberton Smith

PrimaryandEarlyYearsPGCECourseTeam@bcu.ac.uk

Alision is the course lead for the PGCE Primary programme. She oversees the curriculum and operation of the course. She also monitors the overall progress of associate teachers on the course.

Primary Partnership Lead

Anne Whitacre

anne.whitacre@bcu.ac.uk

Anne leads on developing and managing strategic partnerships for primary. She works closely with the Placements Team to ensure that the programme meets the needs of school partners and associate teachers.

Further information, including frequently asked questions, can be accessed via Primary and Early Years partnerships website.

For more information regarding our Primary Partnership:

Visit our website: www.bcu.ac.uk

Visit our Partnerships handbook:
www.bcu.ac.uk/partnerships-and-collaborations

Contact our Partnership Team:
education.placements@bcu.ac.uk
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