THE BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY TEACHER
Committed
Creative
Confident
Collaborative

BIRMINGHAM CITY University

Secondary initial teacher education

in partnership with Birmingham City University

Mentoring the next generation of secondary teachers for our region.

Placement Information Brochure 2026/27

The Secondary ITE courses at BCU provide the sector with the highest number of Associate Teachers across the West Midlands region. We run two successful Secondary ITE courses:

- PGCE (11 to 16 with post 16 enhancement) with a wide range of subjects: Art and Design, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Drama, English, History, Geography, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Language, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education and Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- PGCE (14 to 19) in Social Science: Psychology, Sociology and Health and Social Care
- Undergraduate BA (Hons) with QTS in Physical Education.

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 Secondary associate teachers remain in the region following completion of their training courses 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 be in contact with you.

Best wishes



Kelly Davey Nicklin
Initial Teacher Training Partnership Lead

Subjects

We require undergraduate school-based placements in Physical Education only.

We require postgraduate PGCE school-based placements in the following subject areas only:

- Art and Design
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- English
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music
- PE
- Religious Education
- Science with Biology
- Science with Chemistry
- Science with Physics
- Social Science

Contents

Undergraduate timeline	4
Postgraduate timeline	5
ITT Mentor Training	6
Placement commitments	7
ITE Curriculum	8
Intensive Training and Practice (ITAP)	9
Placement payments	10
FAQs and contacts	11
Placements form	11



Secondary – undergraduate school based training

The information contained in the timetable section is an example of timetables from previous years. We aim to deliver similar structures for 2026/2027 where possible.

Here are example timetables for undergraduate Year 2 and 3 placements.

Week Beg	Year 2				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
3 May	1	2	3	4	5
10 May	6	7	8	9	10
17 May	11	12	13	14	15
24 May	Reading/study week (school half-term)				
31 May	16	17	18	19	20
7 June	21	22	23	24	25
14 June	26	27	28	29	30
21 June	31	32	33	34	35
28 June	36	37	38	39	40

Week Beg	Year 3				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
11 Jan	1	2	3	4	5
18 Jan	6	7	8	9	10
25 Jan	11	12	13	14	ITAP
1 Feb	15	16	17	18	19
8 Feb	20	21	22	23	24
15 Feb	Reading/study week (school half-term)				
22 Feb	25	26	27	28	29
1 Mar	30	31	32	33	34
8 Mar	35	36	37	38	39
15 Mar	40	41	42	43	44
22 Mar	45	46	47	48	49
29 Mar	Easter Break				
5 Apr					
12 Apr	50	51	52	53	54
19 Apr	55	56	57	58	59
26 Apr	60	61	62	63	64

Key

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

Secondary PGCE – postgraduate school based training

Here is an example timetable for the postgraduate placements. SBT A is the home school placement and SBT B is the contrasting school placement.

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
31 Aug				BCU	BCU
7 Sept	Induction 2	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU
14 Sept	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU
21 Sept	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU
28 Sept	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU
5 Oct	BCU	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
12 Oct	BCU - ITAP	BCU - ITAP	SBT - ITAP	SBT - ITAP	BCU - ITAP
19 Oct	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
26 Oct	Reading/Study Week (School Half-Term)				
2 Nov	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
9 Nov	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
16 Nov	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
23 Nov	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
30 Nov	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
7 Dec	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
14 Dec	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
21 Dec	Christmas Break				
28 Dec					
4 Jan	BCU - ITAP	BCU - ITAP	SBT - ITAP	SBT - ITAP	BCU - ITAP
11 Jan	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
18 Jan	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
25 Jan	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
1 Feb	BCU	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A	SBT A
8 Feb	BCU - ITAP	BCU - ITAP	SBT - ITAP	SBT - ITAP	BCU - ITAP
15 Feb	Reading/Study Week (School Half-Term)				
22 Feb	BCU	BCU	BCU	SBT B	SBT B
1 Mar	BCU	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
8 Mar	BCU	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
15 Mar	BCU	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
22 Mar	BCU - ITAP	BCU - ITAP	SBT - ITAP	SBT - ITAP	BH
29 Mar	Easter Break				
5 Apr					
12 Apr	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
19 Apr	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
26 Apr	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
3 May	BH	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
10 May	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
17 May	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
24 May	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
31 May	Reading/Study Week (School Half-Term)				
7 June	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
14 June	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
21 June	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
28 Jun	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B	SBT B
5 July	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU	BCU

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

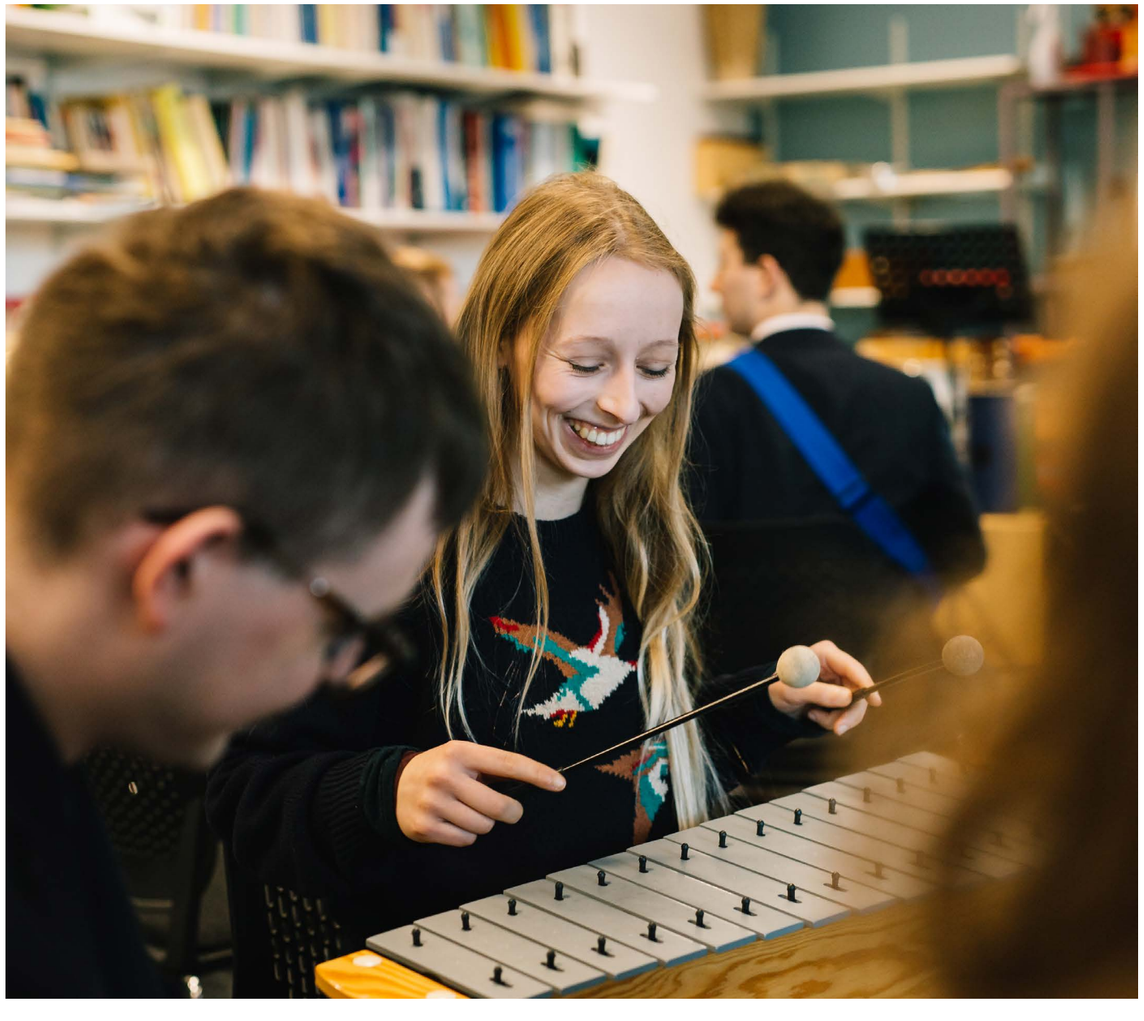
Year 2
Building to 10 individual teaching hours each week.

Year 3
Building to teaching 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 (October – February)
Strategically increase to 8 teaching hours, alongside 1 hour of observation and 1 hour of support.

Placement 2 (February to June)
Strategically increase the teaching load to 16 hours, removing observation and support time in the final half term, during which the full 80% timetable (16 hours) will be taught in full.



BCU ITE curriculum

The ITE BCU 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 secondary 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:

A. use critical enquiry and research informed practice to develop their understanding of effective teaching and learning.

B. classroom practice establishes effective behaviour management using high expectations and awareness of pupil wellbeing.

C. know more, remember more and apply subject knowledge and subject-specific pedagogy to impact on pupils' progress.

D. use knowledge about how pupils learn to plan and assess learning to ensure that all pupils make progress.

E. implement effective adaptive teaching approaches to meet all learners' needs, including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) and EAL (English as an Additional Language) learners.

F. demonstrate 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 four Intensive Training and Practice (ITaP) weeks. The four topics will encompass Behaviour: Rules, Routines, and Relationships; Inclusive Teaching; Language in your Subject; and Assessment. Each area is framed by key questions designed to help our associate teachers (ATs) develop a critical and enquiring mindset. They will first explore these professional issues broadly before considering their specific application within their subject.

Each ITaP is structured around Grossman's (2018) framework: introduce, analyse, prepare, enact, and assess. For our PGCE ATs, this will be delivered as a dedicated week within their curriculum, while undergraduate ATs will engage in a strategically sequenced series of days spread across multiple weeks. As we continue to develop and enhance these sessions, our tutor team remains committed to supporting ATs in practising evidence-informed strategies, observing expert practitioners, and receiving constructive feedback to refine their teaching skills.

We highly value collaboration across our partnership, so if you or your colleagues are interested in contributing to the planning or delivery of ITaP sessions, please reach out. We look forward to working together to support the development of our associate teachers.



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).

Undergraduate

Year 2 – 40 days = £450

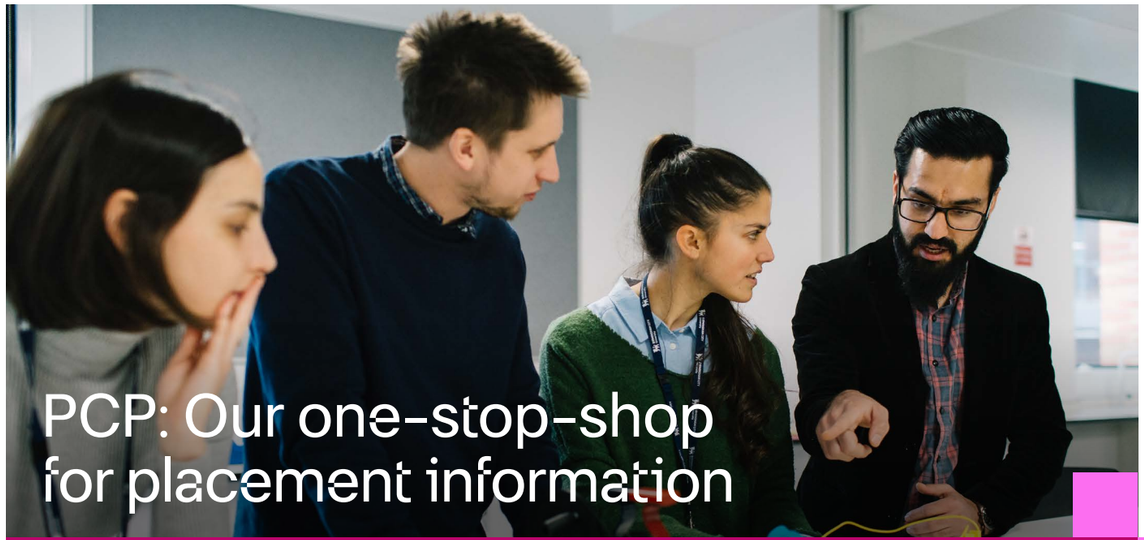
Year 3 – 64 days = £750

Postgraduate

School 1 = £500

School 2 = £800

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

BA (Hons) with QTS in Secondary PE

Course Leader – Gemma Taylor

UGSecondarySLT@bcu.ac.uk

Gemma 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.

Secondary PGCE

Course Leaders – Jen Whitford and Kerry Hetherington-Taylor

PGCESecondarySLT@bcu.ac.uk

Kerry and Jen are the course leads for the PGCE Secondary course. They oversee the curriculum and operation of the course. They also monitor the overall progress of associate teachers on the course.

Secondary Partnership Lead

Helen Lowther

Helen.Lowther@bcu.ac.uk

Helen leads on developing and managing strategic partnerships for the secondary. She works closely with school partners, ensuring that the course meets their needs as well as those of our associate teachers.

Further information, including frequently asked questions, can be accessed via our Secondary Partnership website.

For more information regarding our secondary 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
0121 331 7105

Birmingham City University
Benjamin Zephaniah Building
15 Bartholomew Row
Birmingham
B5 5JU