



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 2025/26

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 programs:

- 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/BSc (Hons) with QTS in Physical Education and Science (Biology).

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 2025/26.



A WARM WELCOME FROM BCU

Dear School Partners,

We send you our best wishes for the summer term.

We are now looking forward to the 2025/26 academic year and considering how we can continue our important work in training and educating our Associate Teachers who will join us in September.

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.

The high standard of support that our associate teachers receive in your school is a significant element of our shared vision for excellence and we are looking forward to developing this further as we continue to work with you in 2025/26. It is quick and easy to register your interest for placements – please see the link and QR code to our ‘Expression of Interest’ survey at the end of this document.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with you.

Best wishes



Karen McGrath
Professional Academic Lead for Secondary

SUBJECTS

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

- » Science with Biology (year 3 only)
- » Physical Education

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

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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 2024/2025 where possible.

Here are example timetables for Undergraduate Year 1, 2 and 3 placements.

Week Beg	YEAR 1				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
1 Dec	1				
8 Dec	2				
15 Dec	3	ITAP - SCH	ITAP - SCH	ITAP - SCH	ITAP - SCH
22 Dec	Christmas				
29 Dec					
5 Jan	4	5	6	7	8
12 Jan	9	10	11	12	13
19 Jan	14	15	16	17	ITAP - BCU
26 Jan	18				
2 Feb	19				
9 Feb	20				
16 Feb	Feb Half-Term				
23 Feb	21				
2 Mar	22				
9 Mar	23				
16 Mar	24				
23 Mar	25				
30 Mar	Easter Break				
6 Apr					
13 Apr	26	ITAP - BCU			
20 Apr	27	ITAP - BCU			
27 Apr	28	ITAP - BCU			
4 May	BH	29	30	31	32
11 May	ITAP - SCH	ITAP - SCH	ITAP - SCH	ITAP - SCH	ITAP - SCH

Key

- BH

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

SECONDARY PGCE – POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL BASED TRAINING

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

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

Key

- School ITaP Day
- University ITaP day
- Holiday
- BH

Bank holiday
- Placement day
- University day

ITT MENTOR TRAINING 2025/26

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 and 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 training sessions.

Please note that the initial 20-hour mentor training requirement originally published by the DfE last year is no longer required (as of November 2024). The ITT Criteria published by the DfE (2024) 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 and that Associate Teachers have opportunities for purposeful practice in relation to key concepts and high-quality feedback.

In light of these requirements from the DfE and in recognising the retraction of the set number of training hours, BCU's mentor training provision has been designed to provide the most appropriate level of support and training required for new mentors, existing mentors and our most experienced mentors.

Full details of how to access online mentor training and relevant 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**
Building to one individual teaching hour a day.
- Year 2**
Building from 5 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)**
Build up to 7 hours individual teaching hours each week of classes across KS3/4.
- Placement 2 (February to June)**
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.



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. Associate teacher uses critical enquiry and research informed practice to develop their understanding of effective teaching and learning.
- B. Associate teacher’s classroom practice establishes effective behaviour management using high expectations and awareness of pupil wellbeing.
- C. Associate teacher knows more, remembers more and applies subject knowledge and subject-specific pedagogy to impact on pupils’ progress.
- D. Associate Teacher uses knowledge about how pupils learn to plan and assess learning to ensure that all pupils make progress.
- E. Associate Teacher implements 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. Associate Teacher demonstrates professional behaviours and contributes effectively to the wider life of the school.



INTENSIVE TRAINING AND PRACTICE (ITAP)

During the 2025/26 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 1 – 30 days = £550

Year 2 – 40 days = £450

Year 3 – 60 days = 750

Year 1 paired placement = £1,200

Postgraduate

School 1 = £500

School 2 = £800

Gratuity Payments

5 or more Associate Teachers = £250

10 or more Associate Teachers = £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.

REGISTERING YOUR INTEREST FOR PLACEMENTS FOR 2025/26

It is quick and easy to let us know that you would like to host Associate Teachers on placement with you next year. Please use the link or QR code below to take you to our Expression of Interest form – when this has been completed, our placement team will be in contact to help get you set up on the Placement Communication Portal.



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

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

HELS.Placements@bcu.ac.uk

Our Secondary 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/BSc (Hons) with QTS

Course Leader – Gemma Taylor

UGSecondarySLT@bcu.ac.uk

Gemma is the course lead for the BA/BSc (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 programme. 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 programme 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:
hels.placements@bcu.ac.uk
0121 331 7105

Birmingham City University
Westbourne Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3TN