

# Get ready for PGCE Primary and Early Years

We would like to extend a warm UWE Welcome to the **PGCE Primary and Early Years Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)** course.

As your programme leaders, we have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us. In the meantime, enjoy your summer as you have a very busy but exciting year ahead of you!

## **Kalpa Ghelani & Leah Dowty**

PGCE Primary and Early Years Programme Leaders

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## **Before you start**

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 1 September for the beginning of your programme.

The first week in an induction week which will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practice the skills you need to make a strong start.

Your [timetable](#) will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the '[Understanding your teaching timetable](#)' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Students can typically find key dates for the academic year 2025/26 on our [term dates](#) webpage, however the PGCE programmes are rather unique in their scheduling. Therefore, please do note:

- February half term and Easter Holiday dates may vary depending on which school you are placed in, so better to wait and see rather than arrange something in those weeks.
- The programme finishes at the start of July 2026, so please do not book any holidays or arrange anything vital in the following few weeks, as sometime students are required to complete extensions to their teaching placements.

## **Preparing and arrival**

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our [Preparing and Arrival](#) webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the [library](#), [study skills](#), [academic support](#), [health and wellbeing support](#) and much more.

## Registration

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the [MYUWE](#) platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our [Registration](#) website.

We be hosting online registration webinars throughout August to guide you through the this process. Please keep checking for e-mail invites with further information.

## ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to [MYUWE](#). To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our [student card guidance](#).

## How to make a successful start to your programme

You will have already been informed about our additional requirements which must be completed ahead of registration and induction:

- **Academic certificates**
- **Disclosure and Barring Service check**
- **Occupational Health clearance**

**Please note:** It is of paramount importance that you engage with these requirements as soon as possible as not having these in place – in the context of a school-facing course – will delay the date you are able to start placement.

## Additional Information Form

Please view and complete the [Additional Information Form](#) to prepare to start your studies.

**It is crucial that this is done at your very earliest convenience** as it is a **mandatory document** which gives us information we need to place you in school. Delays in completing this form may delay the allocation of your first placement. Please be as open and honest as you can when engaging with Occupational Health so that the Programme Leads and the Placement Teams can best support you.

## Engage with your programme

The PGCE programme is set up to build on your foundational knowledge across the subjects for you to assimilate new subject knowledge. However, you can begin your subject knowledge preparation to build your confidence. From now until you join in September, audits and subject packs will be sent to you. This builds on the prepare to study information sent throughout the on-boarding process through online sessions and welcome meetings. Please keep checking your e-mails regularly for information updates.

In anticipation for the library induction, please read the [welcome from the Library team](#). In advance of arriving at UWE, please fill in the workbook. This workbook will help you to make the most of the resources that are available to you within the library and point you to where

you can find extra help and support in any areas that you feel would be useful during your time here at UWE.

## Be prepared

### Access support

Check information on our [Disability webpages](#) so you know what actions you need to take. [Contact Disability Service](#) and myself to let us know if you need any additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies.

### Clean up your online presence

Before you begin the programme, you will need to secure and remove your personal details, online history and any documented activity that may be construed as unprofessional. Prospective employers, our partnership school leaders, and your potential pupils will be looking for you online.

### Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

You will benefit from a laptop, particularly if your access to on-campus facilities is limited. UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the [Student Money Service](#) team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#).

These packages will run on Windows and Mac devices, but you will not get the full functionality or may not work at all on Chromebooks/tablets. We recommend that you have access to a device with the following minimum specifications: **Core Specification**.

## Who to contact if you have questions:

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to email **Kalpa Ghelani** at [Kalpa.ghelani@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Kalpa.ghelani@uwe.ac.uk)

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**Please note:** This information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025